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DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED

ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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PLO SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT

JN0217362 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has announced the following:

U.S. President Jimmy Carter made statements to the SUNDAY TIMES newspaper on the eve of terrorist Menahen Begin's visit. In these statements Carter affirmed his categorical rejection of establishing an independent Palestinian state and announced his blatant support for Begin's plans which consecrate the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories.

The PLO, which has not been taken by surprise--neither today nor yesterday--by the hostile positions adopted by the U.S. administration against the Palestinian people's cause, views these statements by Carter as new proof of the U.S. Government's enmity and aggressiveness against the PLO and its struggling people. These hostile statements affirm that the policy of the U.S. administration is aimed at imposing U.S. hegemony on the Arab region and at giving free rein to the U.S. Zionist base to tighten its aggressive grip on the Arab region. This is because Israel's security, as Carter says, is the basic consideration in Washington's Middle East policy. U.S. President Carter, while revealing with these statements his true policy toward the Middle East, as well as toward the issue of Palestine and its people, has revealed to terrorist Menahem Begin the outlines of the future U.S. moves within the framework of the capitulationist settlements which Carter is seeking to peddle.

The PLO sees in these stands serious indications of the intent to carry out the aggressive plots Carter and Begin are now preparing in Washington against the Palestinian people and their national cause as well as against the Arab nation and its future existence.

The PLO, while categorically rejecting these statements, part and parcel, affirms it will continue on its path of the just struggle to liberate its homeland, return its people to their territories and establish their independent national state on Palestinian national soil.

WAFA COMMENTS ON CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS

JN0221182 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1715 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] The political editor of the Palestinian news agency WAFA writes: The statements made by U.S. President Carter yesterday and the total support which the U.S. President expressed for Israel indicate several important facts. It is extremely beneficial to remember and stress these facts:

1. U.S. policy has never changed. All U.S. administrations have adopted the same course for the past 30 years, namely, support for Israel in its usurpation, aggression, expansion and terror. This fact confirms that this policy is a firm one which expresses imperialist designs and the concept of considering Israel as a policeman to strike here and there in the Arab region in order to suppress the struggle of the Arab masses for independence and liberation.

2. President Carter, whose countenance some quarters tried to beautify and on whom they wagered a great deal, has embarrassed these quarters and exposed their political short sightedness and the serious consequences which resulted from their empty wagers.

3. Perhaps the U.S. President is distinguished from all the other U.S. politicians by his vacillation and instability of opinion. Since the U.S.-Soviet statement and up to the recent statements, the U.S. President has shown that he does not respect a pledge and does not have a firm opinion. This prompts one to say that the U.S. President either makes promises he cannot keep or signs statements he cannot implement.

4. The PLO is an actual fact. The struggling Palestinian people are an undeniable reality. President Carter's statements, which try to harm this existence or not to recognize the PLO, will not change these facts. If anything, these statements reveal the nature and extent of the grudge and animosity which the U.S. administration, headed by President Carter, harbors toward the struggling Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

While reviewing President Carter's recent statements, we stress that we have never been fooled by the U.S. position. Such statements have become necessary for those gamblers who do not see further than the end of their nose, and for their struggling peoples who, nevertheless, will soon see the truth. The struggling Palestinian people will confidently forge ahead in their struggle, convinced of the inevitability of their great victory over their enemies--the imperialists, Zionists and their agents in the Arab world.

PALESTINIANS DENY CLASHES WITH FRENCH UN TROOPS

JN021755Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] A responsible information source in the Palestinian revolution has stated the following. News agencies have cited what they described as a UN spokesman in Tyre to the effect that a clash took place last night near Tyre between a group of Palestinian fedayeen and French UN troops. In reply to these fabricated statements, we wish to state the following facts:

1. Absolutely no clashes between the forces of the Palestinian revolution and the UN troops have taken place since the arrival of these forces and their deployment in the positions established for them.

2. No incidents or clashes took place last night between the above-mentioned forces and any of the Palestinian or Lebanese joint forces.

3. The incident which took place at dawn on Sunday was not a clash but an act of aggression by the French forces against a group [words indistinct] of the Lebanese nationalist movement which was operating behind enemy lines. Fire was opened on this group in a treacherous manner and without warning, leading to the martyrdom of two Lebanese fighters, one of whom was a university student.

4. The UN secretary general has been informed of the details of the aggression perpetrated by French troops against groups of the Lebanese nationalist movement. He has also been informed of the deaths of three Senegalese and the wounding of a fourth as the result of the explosion of an Israeli mine when a Senegalese unit was taking over Israeli positions east of al-'Abbasiyah.

The Palestinian revolution hopes that the press and all information media will be accurate in their reporting on the situation in southern Lebanon and will not be misled by rumors and fabrications.

ANSA: 'ARAFAT WARNS OF INCREASE IN ARMED ACTIONS

AU022023Y Rome ANSA in English 1955 GMT 2 May 78 AU

[Text] Rome, May 2 (ANSA)--Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yassir 'Arafat has warned here that the Palestinian resistance could step up its armed actions if no progress is made towards recognition of the Palestinians' rights. Interviewed for a program put out today by Italy's "RAI" radio-television corporation, 'Arafat also denied that the Palestinian guerrillas could be described as terrorists.

According to the Palestinian leader, "If you continue saying no to the Palestinians, no to Palestinian rights, no to the Palestinian state, no to the PLO, no to the Palestinian refugees...what will happen in the end?" 'Arafat asked.

"The desperation in the heart of our people will increase and it may adopt other means," he replied.

"I am against any act of terrorism." he added. "These are clear words. I reject, absolutely, any terroristic act. Because we are freedom fighters, we shall continue to struggle for our people's liberty and for our people's return to its homeland.

"We believe in democracy. We have a big experience behind us. We are the first revolution to let itself be led by democracy".

WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT ON UNIFIL MISSION CRITICIZED

JN021408Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 May--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has criticized the statement made by UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim on the UNIFIL mission and the instructions issued to these forces to confront any armed act in the south.

Bassam Abu Sharif, PFLP official spokesman, stated today that Waldheim's statement violate the UN charter which stipulates the right of peoples to defend themselves and their homelands against all aggression.

The Palestinian spokesman asserted that in light of this position, the UN troops are actually protecting the Zionist enemy who has oppressed the Palestinian people and occupied their land.

Abu Sharif warned against falling in the trap of the imperialist schemes in the area. He asserted that the Palestinian revolution will continue to fight to liberate Palestine regardless of obstacles.

JERUSALEM PAPERS COMMENT ON CARTER'S STATEMENT

JN021934Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] The newspaper AS-SHA'B which is published in occupied Jerusalem, today asserted that it is time for Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to collect his strength and to admit the failure of his capitulationist initiative.

The newspaper AL-QUDS comments on President Carter's recent statements. It says that As-Sadat, following the statements of his American friends, should give up his initiative since all his negotiations with the Zionists have completely failed.

YASIR 'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED BY CSSR YOUTH DAILY

For a Prague CTK report of interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman carried by the CSSR newspaper MLADA FRONTA, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 3 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM VIEWS CARTER STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE

LD021838Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 1 May 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial: "Are They Indeed 'Strange Statements'?"]

[Text] We were not surprised that President Carter declared on the day before he received the Israeli prime minister yesterday that he "did not support and will not support the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza...and that what he wants is the self-rule that Begin proposed." Therefore, the question for those who are counting on U.S.-Israeli disagreement is: In what respect does Washington disagree with Tel Aviv?

We put this question to Cairo because it is the originator of the well-known theory that the United States holds 99 percent of the cards to the solution. Where is this 99 percent and where is the solution?

What has been the purpose of all that has happened and why did we let Washington enter every home and fight all the world for its sake? Why is there rejoicing?

Was this why we went to Jerusalem, destroyed Arab solidarity and created a suitable atmosphere for the Israeli strike in southern Lebanon?

Of course, we have heard and will hear about Cairo's astonishment at these statements. But is astonishment sufficient after we have lost our friends and lost southern Lebanon?

It is clear that the United States has decided to act openly, now that the plan to occupy southern Lebanon has been fulfilled and the security ring around Israel has been completed. In other words, with the help of empty words the United States has been able to implement the plan to complete the security ring around Israel under the very eyes of the helpless Arab solidarity. Now it says frankly: This is the solution--the Israeli solution--take it or leave it.

Of course, we do not wish nor do we like to gloat over the situation, for we are the ones who are wounded. When Cairo gets involved we are bound to suffer.

However, it is not only the question of tolerating the American trick or defending it, but rather of facing the contemptuous look the whole world will cast on us. We have done for the United States what no one else did. We fought in Africa, we lost the sources of armament, and we even lost ourselves. We then came face to face with the certainty--that the United States is a Zionist colony. We thought that what glittered was gold, but soon its true nature came to light: it was treachery!

Of course, no one is responsible for confusing real gold with fool's gold. But the result of this has been the tragic events in the recently occupied territories in southern Lebanon, the free shedding of Palestinian and Arab blood and the loss of Arab solidarity in capitals and in the desert--all of which depict one of the most terrible stages in the history of Arab foolishness.

But why shouldn't Carter declare what he declared publicly? Of whom should Carter be afraid or with what means can we--the divided, the enemies, the ones who fight one another, who harangue and quarrel like children--frighten him? Of course, he is not afraid, for he has seen with his own eyes that we can frighten nobody.

The latest test was in southern Lebanon, where the Palestinians faced the storm alone while the Arabs stood watching as if they were watching a war movie taking place in some other part of the world. He also saw the great Arab indecisiveness in the face of the most serious individualist initiative in history--a resounding Arab visit to Jerusalem. He also saw other things that boggle the mind and go beyond reason.

Therefore, Cairo, Washington has reciprocated your good with evil. Washington now tells you there is only suicide before you--a separate peace with Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S., OIL POLICY

LD0215lOY Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Apr 78 p 17 LD

[Interview granted by Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to French journal Paris MATCH, reprinted in Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM--date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Your highness, the serious events the Arab world is experiencing make everybody wonder why the Arab countries have not yet recognized their correct path and do not know how to move from their present state of disarray to that of consolidation and stability. What is your opinion?

[Answer] What is happening at present does not concern one particular Arab state or one particular Arab people, but rather all countries and peoples of the Arab world. The same can also be said of the entire world at present. Before I began to work as an official in the service of his majesty the king, I was merely an ordinary citizen trying to appraise in the depth of my soul the greatness, vastness and qualities of my country. I have come to the definite conclusion that the Arab homeland as such concerns not only our present generation but also all past and future generations. Therefore, I believe that I am one of those officials in the Arab world who cannot impose his ideas, theories, views and vision of events on the Arab countries. The current events are very serious and the Arab peoples have the full right, indeed the duty, to raise the questions you have just asked.

The nature of the role we are playing makes it incumbent on us to be realistic and to resort to reason, wisdom and patience in all our actions. Our countries need not only our unity but also the creation of some kind of deep and positive dialog that enables us to distinguish and judge things.

In fact, I don't know why we shift so quickly from a stage in which we are in agreement and united to another in which we become divided and our efforts and views become dispersed, and thus become subject to those unfortunate results of such a stage--whether we are at war or at peace.

There is no doubt that all the Arab heads of state and leaders have realized this historical fact, suffered from it in past centuries and realized the high price the Arab nation has paid.

It is extremely painful for me to see my brothers forget all these facts. In any case, we spare no efforts and we will never give up the attempts we are making to close the rift and rectify errors in the Arab world in order to insure the unity of ranks so that the Arab world will be able to achieve the desired victories.

[Question] Do you agree with the method President Carter wishes to use to solve the Middle East problem?

[Answer] The talks I had with President Carter during my recent visit to the United States primarily dealt with the Middle East problem. I cannot say that we agreed on everything, but certainly there was some sort of understanding between us. The United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are always trying to find a solution for this problem. I discussed with President Carter problems concerning our two countries and our common interests. I do not think that it is possible to reach full agreement on all points between any two parties, even within the same family. This is because differences of views on a number of subjects are inevitable.

[Question] Do you believe that the United States is putting pressure on Israel to make some concessions?

[Answer] President Carter firmly stressed before the UN General Assembly that his country's pledge to insure the security of Israel is indisputable. At the same time, however, the United States is committed to achieving peace in the Middle East. I am quite confident that President Carter is very aware of the importance and gravity of the situation in the Middle East and does all he can to insure just peace in the area.

[Question] Don't you think that the Arab leaders who have accepted an agreement with Israel have now lost every hope because of Israel's intransigence?

[Answer] Such intransigence will definitely not be in the interest of Israel or its allies. If Israel fails to exploit the golden opportunity that was given to it to establish peace in the area, reactions will follow that will be disastrous for Israel. I believe that this intransigence and hardline stand is only an Israeli attempt to extort the Arab countries. We, the Arab countries, have offered everything for cooperation and openness, and Israel must now choose between the just peace we want and war.

[Questions] Your highness, it is said in certain circles that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the necessary means to apply pressure on the United States so that it, in turn, will put pressure on Israel. But it is also being said in these circles that Saudi Arabia does not wish to use its oil weapon after seeing the results of using it in the 1973 war. Will the Saudi funds invested in the United States be the required weapon?

[Answer] You must know from the beginning that expressions such as "it is being said," "they say", and "they talk" do not interest me at all, because we are managing our own policy and making our own decision in a manner compatible with our interests and our national policies. When national duty calls on us to use the oil weapon, we will use it until the desired objective is achieved. Oil is not an ordinary commodity that we can arbitrarily or haphazardly dump on the market or withhold, in accordance with political needs. We have used the oil weapon and we will use it wisely and moderately. We have opposed any excessive increase in oil prices and by doing so we risked the hostility of friendly states in OPEC. All this was for the sake of saving and protecting the world economic system. If oil is our property, on the other hand, it is a vital and necessary commodity for humanity and civilization.

[Question] I must therefore ask this question: Is there a secret oil agreement between Saudi Arabia and the United States?

[Answer] Several officials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia previously asked this question and it was answered several times. To these answers I would add that we have always been the target of propaganda campaigns by biased quarters in the West whose purpose is to influence our decisions and national policies. For your information: Saudi Arabia takes its decisions in accordance with its will and the leadership of King Khalid. It will continue to pursue this path without heeding such criticism and false campaigns. There is nothing secret in what we decide or in what we do. Everything we have is clear and frank. All our agreements in all fields are made public and they stem basically from our own interests.

[Question] In one of your recent statements you said that you are not afraid of war. Does this mean that you are prepared to face it?

[Answer] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is prepared to place all its forces and capabilities in the service of the triumph of Arab right and of the honor of the Arab nation and everything that is sacred to it. We have allocated $8 billion annually to our army. This means that not only do we wish to defend the boundaries of the kingdom but that we are also prepared to intervene wherever national duty calls us. We had forces in Syria and we now have forces in Jordan and also with the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon. All this makes clear to the world the extent of our readiness. We declare that we do not want war but peace, and recent developments in the area indicate that it is possible to reach the desired solution. But if we fail in this field, then the fault will not be ours, but Israel's. Israel should comply with international will. Israel must withdraw from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, particularly the eastern part of Jerusalem. To us this is a matter of principle because we have Arab, national and religious commitments in Jerusalem.

[Question] There are certain Arab heads of state who are afraid of war and believe that the balance of military power is in favor of Israel. What is your opinion?

[Answer] When a new war breaks out it generates new international conditions. Weapons are not the only means of war and of insuring victory. We believe in our right which is our best weapon. And the Arab countries, thank God, believe in their right. They must unite and close their ranks as well as shun everything that may divide them, so they will be able to face the future. They must also rise to the level of the challenge they declared.

Past events have shown that the Arabs are strong when they are united and weak when they quarrel and dispute. If the Arabs will not become fully convinced that their strength lies in their unity, then nobody else can convince them.

During the Ramadan [October] War the Arabs not only proved their high technical capability but also that they can win a war when they are united. The enemy can triumph in a war only when they are divided and disunited. Now look at how the enemy is behaving when the Arabs are divided.

[Question] Do you have any specific Arab strategy for the confrontation with Israel?

[Answer] Sound Arab strategy is to be found in the unity of the Arabs and in their sincere determination to face the enemy together. Without this principle and in the absence of such a basis, no strategy can be achieved. Under King Khalid's leadership Saudi Arabia will, with God's help, spare no effort to achieve this objective. We have great hopes that our efforts will bear fruit and that we will be able to achieve our objectives.

UAE

UAE PRESS DENOUNCES PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS

NC010857Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0813 GMT 1 May 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 May--The UAE press today criticizes U.S. President Carter's recent statements opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state, on the question of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and in support of the Begin plan as a basis for a settlement in the Middle East.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD blames the Arab states. It says: Anyone who does not believe Carter's recent statements should take a good look at the present Arab situation. The Arabs have become conflicting factions and forces fighting among themselves, so much so that when Israel stormed southern Lebanon, nothing came out of the Arabs except fiery statements and convulsive outcries which only pleased Israel.

AL-ITTIHAD asks: How can we blame the Israeli prime minister and call him arrogant and intransigent when the U.S. President himself says that the Begin plan will be the basis for a Middle East settlement and denies that he had advocated the creation of a Palestinian state? Furthermore, how can we expect Israel to accept such a state?

AL-WAHDAH says that President Carter's retreat from his previous position on peace in the Middle East, and the dismembering of the planes deal for Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel means that Zionist pressure has triumphed as expected, and that the United States now supports the Israeli policy, which seeks both peace and territory.

The paper calls for an Egyptian reaction equal in magnitude to the U.S. alinement with Israel.

AL-WATHBAH emphasizes that the only answer to the U.S. stance must be the revival of Arab solidarity and the formulation of one Arab stance and strategy. It adds: We expect an Egyptian initiative concerning the Arab situation.

SAWT AL-UMMAH says that Carter's failure in his tug of war with Israel has provided the Arabs with a golden opportunity for restoring Arab solidarity. It adds that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat can renounce his reliance on the United States now that it has been proved that the U.S. solution is a carbon copy of the Israeli solution.

DRAFT LAW ON MILITARY SERVICE COMPLETED

JN021358Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1106 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May--The newspaper AL-WATHBAH, published here today, states that the UAE authorities have completed the formulation of a compulsory military service law for all UAE citizens between the ages of 16 and 36. The period of military service will be 9 years, including active and reserve service.

The draft law will be submitted for approval and ratification by the Council of Ministers and the UAE Supreme Council.

Active service will make up 8-16 percent of the entire compulsory military service period, while the remaining service will be spent in the reserves.

TEXT OF PRESIDENT AS-SADAT'S 2 MAY SPEECH

JN021102Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0952 GMT 2 May 78 JN/NC

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat at the May Day rally held at the faculty of agriculture in Shubra al-Khaymah, Cairo, on 2 May 1978--live]

[Text] In the name of God: As we celebrate workers day today, we are celebrating one of the greatest days of freedom. This day has a distinguished place in the pages of our contemporary history. The Egyptian human being, the Egyptian worker, has chosen the path of prestige and dignity. He has given his country prestige and dignity in two revolutions--the 23 July revolution and the 15 May revolution.

The 23 July revolution gave recognition to the right to steady work, protecting the worker from the threat of arbitrary dismissal, giving him a share in the administration and management of work, and enabling him to have everything that insures honest work and livelihood and to be represented at all levels of decisionmaking.

The 15 May revolution added comprehensive insurance of the worker's right to his work and the right of the Egyptian human being and the Egyptian worker to security and safety. It also insured his right to responsible political freedom, protected from the aggression of centers of power and dawn visitors and also protected by a permanent constitution which has taken democratic practices big steps forward, imposed the rule of law to safeguard human liberties, dissipated fear--which is the worst affliction any citizen could suffer in his own country and home--and guaranteed complete security and safety for the millions.

Brothers and sisters, it was from a position of strength, represented by the nobility and resoluteness of the Egyptian human being, and from a position of free affiliation to the holy soil, which is proud of the dignity of its sons--it was from these two lofty positions that the immortal October war was fought. In this war the Egyptian human being played a glorious heroic role, enabling the Arab human being to raise his head high once again over Arab territory, which had been bled by defeat, and to regain his lofty dignity after it had been struck by the 1967 tragedy, which will never be forgotten by our noble people.

Our heartfelt greetings to our heroes in the armed forces who on our behalf paid the tax of blood sacrifice and who recorded before the whole world a brilliant picture of the most glorious acts of bravery and the most immortal epics of defense of the homeland. It was the Egyptian human being who triumphed in the October war. The free Egyptian human being has been and will remain the primary and most potent weapon in the epics of storming the enemy, because he has become his own master as well as the master of his weapon. A shaky hand does not fight or build. Faint hearts cannot challenge the rockets of devastation.

Egypt of the great 15 May achieved Egypt of the great October through its strong arm, brave heart and free human beings who had first triumphed at home over the enemies of freedom and man.

Brothers and sisters, men and women workers of Egypt, noble toilers: History has recorded the brilliant role played by the Egyptian workers in the immortal October epic. It is an indivisible part of the immorality of the battle.

The Egyptian workers manufactured 60 percent of the bridges for the crossing. The Egyptian workers built the missile stations while the aircraft of the adversary was striking them with the shells of death day and night. The Egyptian workers have manufactured arms and ammunitions. The Egyptian workers have established the biggest fortified air bases. The Egyptian workers constitute the biggest economic base of the public sector, which supplied the army of Egypt and the domestic front with the biggest national production, which was the means for storming, steadfastness and continuity.

Brothers and sisters, when I say that your remarkable role in the immortal epic of October was an inseparable part of the immortality of the battle, I am not flattering you. I have never flattered anyone in my life and I look down on those who flatter. However, I am talking to you with an open heart because I worked like you in my youth. I lived the life of the Egyptian worker in full. While my destiny has placed me, through your will, in the highest position of responsibility, in the position of the patriarch of the family, this destiny requires me to make new efforts and never to become isolated from the years of my youth, when my destiny was to live as a man wanted by repressive forces affiliated with the colonialists, their parties and agents and to seek a subsistence living for the members of my family under the hardest conditions and challenges that any youth working for his country can face.

While it pleases me, brothers and sisters, to repeat my commendation of your role in the immoral battle of October, it gives honor to me and to Egypt to record your genuine Egyptian role in confronting the forces of evil and subversion on 18 and 19 January 1977. These incidents were led and perpetrated by the agents of imported principles and the advocates of grudges and blood. Their bleak dreams and criminal ambitions prompted them to think that they were capable of imposing on this faithful and free country a rule of iron and fire, the repression of prisons and detention houses, and the humiliation of subjugation by foreign forces seeking to destroy our traditions, mosques and churches and to impose on us the repression of a new imperialism.

Every Egyptian man and woman recalls with me with love, appreciation and gratitude the stand of the workers of Shubra al-Khaymah. [applause] Every Egyptian man and woman recalls with me with love, appreciation and gratitude the stand of the workers of Shubra al-Khayman--the stand of the men of this big industrial fortress when they confronted with all that was in their hands the remnants of the agents of malice and subversion when these forces tried to desecrate this spot and reach it for the purpose of looting, arson, and sabotage. The traitors fled and the cowards disappeared. Not one machine of the people's plants in Shubrah al-Khaymah went out of order. [applause]

The wheels of production continue to roll, fully achieving benefits for the people of Egypt and declaring to the whole world that the workers of Egypt are the honor of Egypt, its protectors and its white banners.

Brothers and sisters, perhaps you recall that I made a promise to the workers of Egypt last May Day. I promised that the government would implement the just, legitimate demands put forward on your behalf by the chairman of the General Federation of Labor and the minister of manpower. [applause]

We have fulfilled the promise, brothers and sisters. The cultural institute has been transferred and attached to the general federation. The labor unions are represented in the various sectors. It has been decided to undertake a comprehensive expansion of consumer complexes in the various industrial areas in a manner that will enable them to fulfill all needs. The trade union movement participated and is participating in the discussion of all laws which affect the labor movement. They are participating by expressing their views on the social and economic development plan. Yesterday it was agreed to have an integrated plan between the General Federation of Labor and the Ministry of Industry to achieve a large steady source to finance the general federation in carrying out all its domestic and social activities. I believe that in the first year the general federation will have 1.5 million pounds. We are working, brothers and sisters, to hasten the day when we will see a budget of the General Federation of Labor that will allow it to make investments for the good of the trade union movement--thus you will have a workers hotel, a workers bank, and a workers resort.

The General Federation of Labor sought to contract with the Agriculture Ministry to purchase 300,000 square meters to be used as a big resort for the workers--the small worker before the big worker. This land is located on the northwest coast opposite the Alexandria-Marsa Matruh road. Although the purchase was supposed to be based on the price of land per meter in this spot, which is developing in terms of construction and prosperity, the minister of agriculture informed me today that on the occasion of workers day he has approved the request of the general federation that the purchase will be made at a small token price--or nearly free. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, the questions now being asked are: Where are we now and where are we heading on the question of peace? Where are we now and where are we heading on the question of Arab relations? Where are we now and where are we heading in our internal affairs, the daily affairs of our life and our democratic march?

I begin my talk to you, and through you to the people, about the question of peace and the peace initiative. I do not need to say, as all of you are following the developments of peace, that the world is now joining us as a witness for the prosecution, even as a positive side, supporting total withdrawal from the occupied territory and the rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to determine their own fate and establish their state on their land.

The world is now joining us not just as a witness for the prosecution and a supporter of Arab rights but it is bringing a law suit against Israel's intransigence, its insistence on expansion and its impeding of all peace plans. Thus, the world conscience from one end of the world to the other is aware of the cogent fact that all the effects of Israel's allegations for the past 30 years about its desire to achieve peace and coexist with the peoples of the area have been exposed in the first real test of these allegations in the issue of peace.

The world is now joining us not just as a witness for the prosecution and a supporter but is bringing a law suit, because the Egyptian peace initiative has been recognized by everyone as the most enormous and most splendid event in contemporary world history. As a matter of fact, it is a momentous event whose inspiration to mankind exceeded that of the scientific feat of placing the first man on the moon. This is what is being said in the world today.

The world is joining us not just as a witness for the prosecution and a supporter but is bringing a law suit because the Egyptian peace initiative is the real test which Israel is now facing, after Israel has found itself completely isolated. Even more, the Israeli Government, for the first time since its inception, is now locked in a confrontation of destiny with the United States, which offers Israel everything from loaves of bread to fighter planes.

The world is adopting a positive attitude toward us which is not confined to statements and official communiques but goes beyond that to great and intensive efforts in the international arena and its lobbies. All are magnanimous, strong efforts which double the efficacy of the Egyptian peace initiative day after day and warn the Israeli leaders through actions rather than words that nobody will allow the rare, historic peace initiative that is the Egyptian initiative to be missed.

These continuous, enthusiastic international efforts can no longer accept any excuse from the Israeli Government, which can no longer deceive by any maneuverings or playing with words, now that the Egyptian initiative has exposed all the false arguments by which Israel convinced the world for the past 30 years. The Arab states were then stricken with defeats, split by differences and totally isolated from today's world. These states also lagged far behind in saying what would convince the world and strip the Zionist plan of all its combat weapons.

Before the October war and the Egyptian initiative, the Arab states were talking to themselves, without their voices reaching anyone. The world, which was riveted by the Egyptian initiative, expected the Israeli Government to make the necessary decisions and to face its people with the courage of casting out the old ideas, which now stand weak and untenable alongside the Egyptian peace initiative. It is clear now that the Egyptian initiative had the impact of a sudden earthquake which affected equally the positions of the Israeli Government and its possible political action.

Perhaps, despite all their calculations about the Arab method, they did not expect that it was possible for Egypt to explode this situation so that it would echo in all parts of the world and for this echo to increase day after day and to expose other dimensions which increase, double and strengthen.

When I agreed to meet with Mr Begin, the Israeli prime minister, in Ismailia, we heard that tens of thousands of Israelis gathered in public squares in Tel Aviv to chant songs of peace and to dance until the morning for the sake of peace. When the entire world later realized Mr Begin's intransigence and his commitment to the past with all its wrong theories, which were destroyed by the October war and the peace initiative--I say that the youth reservists in Israel have been gathering by the thousands under the name of the "peace movement" to demand that their prime minister be flexible and concede land for the sake of peace.

Perhaps you read recently that several university professors in Israel have also joined the peace movement, which now has bases and members in all Israeli towns. The Egyptian initiative, therefore, is growing and interacting and is becoming deeper and more positive, to the extent that we hear Israeli politicians themselves and their information and political organs saying that Egypt is now living inside every house in the United States and Europe, and is appreciated and respected by all generations and communities.

We also hear that the real crisis in Israel is that the Israeli Government wonders how it, with all the massive capabilities possessed by the Zionist forces in the United States and Europe, can alleviate the strong effect caused by the Egyptian initiative and attempt to improve the image of Israel in the eyes of millions of people in the West who used to support all of Israel's stands and all its ambitions blindly and without question. The Israelis are now trying merely to improve the image of Israel, because the restoration of the image which existed before the Egyptian initiative has become impossible.

The U.S. Government under the leadership of President Carter is now carrying out a historic role for the establishment of peace. Mr Begin's last trip to the United States before the current one resulted in a clear and specific declaration of the main points of difference in principle between President Carter and Mr Begin. You might have heard about the statements attributed to President Carter in the press yesterday and the fact that our foreign minister summoned and met with the U.S. ambassador, who notified us that the position which President Carter adopted and on which he agreed with me during my visit to the United States has not changed. [applause]

President Carter announced an ethical political stand, which deserves our total appreciation, when he supported Resolution 242--which provides for withdrawal from all fronts in the occupied territory--and when he acknowledged the illegitimacy of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territory. This ethical and just political stand is not President Carter's alone. Many members of the U.S. Congress have adopted the same stand. U.S. public opinion, with all its powers in terms of decisionmaking, also adopted the same stand. Moreover, large numbers of American Jews, for the first time since the establishment of Israel, are adopting a similar position and do not want the historic peace opportunity to be missed.

I wish to thank thousands of those who every day and up to this moment have sent me messages and cables supporting the Egyptian initiative and the peace cause. However, some political juvenile delinquents and those who have grudges against our society ask maliciously: Was the objective behind the initiative merely to expose Israeli intransigence? They add: Did we not know that before? This is a negative question that cannot deceive even a child. Anyone with a mind and eyes can tell the clear difference between our continuing to scream day and night accusing Israel of intransigence, arrogance, and a policy of expansion and aggression without convincing anybody, on the one hand, and on the other having the world talk today in our language and about our rights and adopt our stands.

Nobody, not even Israel, expected that the American people in particular, including the Zionist organizations which have been there for 200 years, would be the first to support our rights and to expose Israel's intransigent stand and its destruction of peace opportunities. The Israeli Government was not courageous enough to adopt appropriate decisions, and the impact of the initiative's earthquake continues to leave Israel perplexed amid the debris of the old ideas.

Some teenagers and those who bear grudges speak in the tone of a vain philosopher or claim to know all secrets and to say that the Egyptian initiative has blocked the way to the Geneva conference. I wonder when the road to the Geneva conference was open.

Didn't the Syrian president tell the heads of the Gulf states, when he sought to instigate them against the initiative, that neither Syria nor the Soviet Union intended to attend the Geneva conference? Wasn't it Syria that put one obstacle after another in the way of composing the Arab delegation to the Geneva conference? Syria first asked for a unified Arab delegation. We objected to that. However, for the sake of Palestinian representation, we agreed on a unified Arab delegation as Syria requested. When Syria knew that we had agreed on a unified Arab delegation, it objected to the unified Arab delegation, when in fact it was it who had made the proposal.

Were we not surprised at the maneuvers which took place regarding the Geneva conference working paper during the month-long talks which took place last summer among the Arab foreign ministers and the Israeli foreign minister with President Carter and Mr Vance and between Washington and New York? All this resulted in a U.S. working paper, a U.S.-Israeli working paper and a U.S.-Soviet working paper. The road to the Geneva conference got lost among all these papers.

This prompted me to declare, in order to refute every maneuver, that Egypt is ready to go to the Geneva conference without any working paper. Egypt has never tried to evade attending the Geneva conference. Did we not call, and still call, for the Cairo conference in order to prepare for the Geneva conference? Weren't the talks in Ismailia and Jerusalem practical preparation for the Geneva conference?

We are not against the Geneva conference and we have never been opponents of the Geneva conference. However, convening the Geneva conference without comprehensive preparations and without a clear agreement on the principles of peace will cause us to go around in a vicious circle and the conference will be converted to form without substance, as has been the case of the Geneva disarmament conference for the past 25 years.

Brothers and sisters, regarding the issue of peace, we can say in short that world optimism about and positive support for the Egyptian initiative is increasing daily, and the international efforts to keep the peace process going between capitals and influential leaders have not stopped for a single day. We still retain our firm, principled stand which we announced in the heart of Israel and before the Israeli Knesset. We will never give up the slogan of the total Arab right to complete withdrawal from the territories occupied after 1967 and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to establish their own state on their own land.

I am not at liberty, because of my position of responsibility, to disclose the purport of the current contacts until they have completed their course. As usual, I will place everything before you and the people. The last of these contacts was the arrival of U.S. Ambassador Atherton and the exchange of letters between me and President Carter. I would, however, like to reaffirm that President Carter's stand is principled, moral and straightforward.

We are not acting from a position of failure or lack of self-confidence. We receive any Israeli Government leader who wants to come. But we never deceive our people, because we immediately announce if there has been anything new prompting the resumption of direct talks with Israel. But their positions have not changed so far. 'Ezer Weisman, the Israeli defense minister, asked to come to Cairo. As soon as the talks ended and even before he arrived back in Israel, we announced that he had not brought us anything new that changed the Israeli stand.

We have been and still are acting with an open mind and heart. We are always ready for the efforts and action demanded by the cause of peace. This is the destiny we have chosen for ourselves. This is our sacred mission to which we have pledged life and for which we announced our position, which is adopted by the whole world today. Our position has been and remains: Let the October war be the last war.

Brothers and sisters, the other question being raised is: What about Arab solidarity? I need not recount the desperate effort exerted by Egypt before the October war to achieve Arab solidarity. The October war and the measures that followed it, such as the oil embargo, were a full expression of solidarity, stronger than any ever achieved before in the Arab arena. The first step we took to strengthen Arab solidarity was the principled stand against the classification of Arab states into reactionary and progressive states. We said that the Arab people in each state have the right to choose their own form of government. We defined our strategy on the basis that we are all Arabs and that our responsibility toward our destiny demands that we stand as one nation and one entity before the enemy whose primary weapon in achieving and entrenching his designs is exploiting Arab division. After that, not a single Arab state complained about or doubted our commitment to this principle.

We completely disassociated ourselves from any overt or covert means to interfere in the internal affairs of Arab states. However, some so-called rejectionist commands, for political and rancorous reasons, wanted to resort to classifications of reactionary, progressive, monarchical and republican. These commands bestowed medals on each other saying they were progressive, superior or inferior. They naturally placed us on the list of reactionaries, defeatists and liquidationists, and called us other funny and clownish things. They give themselves the right to impose their opinions in their yellow press and sometimes in their convulsive and rasn radio broadcasts. They have reached the lowest level of vulgarism and abuse.

Some Egyptian writers are sometimes prompted by their national zeal to reply to these slanders, but I am guided by the principle that I should not take any notice of such irresponsible and rancorous shrieking. I always reveal the truth to the people; our experiments are not conducted in the dark. According to their information media and their statements, we are liquidationists and capitulationists because through the historic Egyptian initiative we were able to win all the world to the side of Arab rights--namely, complete withdrawal and the rights of the Palestinian people. They are progressive and steadfast because before the October war began [as heard] and behind our backs, they asked the Soviets to arrange a cease-fire on the second day of the October war, as well as on the third and fourth days.

We are defeatists and capitulationists because we achieved the immortal victory of October for the first time in the recent history of the Arab nation. They are progressives and strugglers because some of them were the prophets who foretold our defeat and warned us before the war that not waging the battle is one disaster, but waging the battle is two disasters. Some of them rejected solidarity in the oil embargo during the war so as to gain millions of pounds and exploit the Arab oil stand--which shook the whole world--and to fill their coffers by not cooperating with the other countries in imposing a ban on oil.

These are the progressives and we are defeatists, capitulationists and reactionaries because we warned the Arab world against the peripheral battles which distract us from the fateful cause. They are progressives, strugglers and steadfast because they are committing crimes of assassination, kidnaping and physical liquidation. Some of them even belong to the same party and have the same ideology. There is no need for me to talk about the fate of the so-called front of rejection, steadfastness and confrontation. It is enough now to look at the accusations and counteraccusations among them regarding cowardice, shame and humiliation. What surprised me is that they reached this fate only a few weeks after the announcement of the declaration of steadfastness and confrontation. They have rejected themselves and have only held out in accusing each other and in resisting the plots of murder and assassination which they throw back and forth among themselves as they exchange outbidding and hollow slogans. Despite this, based on Egypt's commitment to the fateful causes, I have welcomed and I still welcome all the current efforts. We severed diplomatic relations with the rejectionist states wher they slandered Egypt and its people in an official statement and decided to freeze relations with us. Our reply was: If you have taken the first step by freezing relations, then we will go one step further by severing them because each one of you is indebted to Egypt and its people. [applause]

Despite this, I have told brother President Ja'far Numayri and all the brothers who are now seeking solidarity that Egypt does not object to the restoration of these relations and that we do not object to the date and venue of holding the Arab summit conference, but we do not want it to meet and then do nothing but adjourn. We want complete frankness and definitions of positions, commitments and responsibilities, and everyone should know his ability and strengtn. [applause]

One thing we have not accepted and will not accept is slandering the Egyptian people and denying their enormous sacrifices--sacrifices of martyrdom on the battlefields of heroism and glory, and of severe suffering regarding their daily bread and food while others thrive at the expense of this people's sacrifices. It is an irony of fate that we are being reproached for our economic crisis. I say it and repeat it again: Slandering the Egyptian people and displaying arrogance toward them is something we will not accept. Let it be known full well that this great and noble people is standing fast with the most magnificent examples of patience and defiance. The Egyptian people are capable, with the loftiest examples of building and giving, of overcoming their crisis without ignoring their responsibilities toward the issues of liberation and peace.

The whole world is now aware that the Sinai is not the reason for the peace crisis. The Israeli leaders are announcing daily that they have offered to withdraw from 99 percent of the Sinai, but first we demand the rights of the Palestinian people on their land before our rights on the land of Sinai. [applause]

We know our duty, and Egypt knows its place and its responsibilities. I say it and repeat it again: Enough defamation of the Egyptian people--this heroic people which is suffering and bearing more than humans can bear while building and producing to overcome its crisis with a firmness known for thousands of years. Enough of this denying of the Egyptian people's sacrifices; enough rending of the Arab nation in the name of slogans which have become obsolete and do not deceive the awareness of our Arab people anywhere. We are Arabs; this is our strategy.

Brothers and sisters, the important and final question which remains is: Where do we stand now and where are we going regarding our domestic front, daily affairs and democratic march? [applause] I tell you very clearly that the heights to which Egypt has risen in the advanced world abroad, and the high and magnificent status of respect, appreciation and encouragement which it enjoys, are equalled internally. Let us discuss our affairs and our negative points openly and frankly. I am not and will never be removed from the pulse of the Egyptian street; I am not and will never be removed from the problems of the Egyptian people in the villages, cities and remote areas.

I was brought up amid the worries of the poor Egyptian family and knew the burdens and pains borne by the head and members of the family in the society of subjugation. I challenged the rancors and ambitions which were deliberately imposed by the people who represented half a percent of the society before the 23 July revolution.

If I have accepted my fate of continuous and relentless struggle in the defense and accomplishment of the rights of every Egyptian on his soil as well as his right to freedom, freedom of expression, security and safety, you should know, brothers and sisters, that I have never and will never be isolated day or night from the groaning of any family on the soil of Egypt.

You should also know, brothers and sisters, that any letter from a wronged or oppressed citizen will be with me during my insomnia at night. I do not sleep or rest until I am reassured that my son or brother the oppressed citizen has been given justice and respite. [applause] I know what poverty is; I did not come in to life with a golden, silver or tin spoon in my mouth, but dashed into the jungle of life so as to extricate from a society of subjugation my right and the right of millions to life. Thus I must have an opinion. This means clearly and frankly that in my affiliation I belong to the broad strata of the peasants and workers. [applause] This also means that I, having lived in prisons and detention camps, as well as having lived the bitterness of deprivation and poverty and having struggled for the rights of this people, will never allow a group of either agent ideologists or those who were brought up with golden spoons in their mouths to play games with this people's destiny.

In 1973 an upheaval took place in Cairo only--not in any other place in the republic like the upheaval which is currently taking place. The 1973 upheaval took place.

Some of those who are living on the surface in our society--and I thank God that the broad base of our people has been and always will be strong, sound, solid--claimed, around the beginning of 1973, that the situation was finished. They claimed that there was no battle because the Egyptian leadership was a defeatist and a capitulationist one and that all it was doing was doping the people. Six months before that I ousted the Soviet experts from the country. Those people said that As-Sadat would not fight and that if he were going to fight he would have kept the Soviet experts.

Why am I recalling this? I am recalling this because in Cairo only--excluding the popular quarters in Cairo and the steadfast, faithful and solid Cairo of workers and peasants--there are some people blinded by hatred, as they were in 1973, because they lost their position or their control. These people have nothing else to do but to criticize everything and to be content with nothing. At the time, in March 1973, one of them told me that the situation was finished. Articles about the country were published abroad and the only hope was to change things. But how, when the situation was desperate? At the time I spent 1 month with the armed forces, studying the plan for the crossing of the Suez Canal on a sand model. This was in February 1973 and the crossing took place in October 1973. [applause] Military plans, as you know, go through several stages before implementation, in accordance with modern science. The first of these stages was the sand model showing the battlefield. The commanders would then outline the plan, and agreement on a final plan would be adopted. This was in February, and they came to me in March. I could not possibly tell them that I was planning for October. Never.

However, I thank God that the broad base of our people has been conscious and understanding. In my first initiative, on 4 February 1971, the centers of power were still in the ASU Supreme Committee when I took the initiative without their knowledge. The following day the whole Egyptian people responded to my initiative, but the centers of power were disturbed. They imagined that demonstrations would be staged and the world would collapse. The following day they were with the people and the third day they all came to me to say that nothing could have been better. Our people have never been wrong. Our people can distinguish between the wicked and the good, between sincerity and dishonesty.

The Cairo of 1973 underwent new changes. In 1973 the leftists were active among university students. They attempted to influence the workers. Around the end of 1972 and the beginning of 1973, the ignorant right joined the left because it had lost its position. I addressed the People's Assembly around the end of December 1972 and the beginning of January 1973 and said that I would not allow that to happen. All offenders, including students, were sent for prosecution. Some journalists at the time betrayed their country in their writings and slanders against their country outside Egypt. Some journalists continue to do this to this date.

At the time I adopted certain precautions but I never told them that I was going to fight in October. Never. On 28 September, 2 weeks before the battle, I told them that everything was over. They thought I was saying that in order to win their support. The October battle began 2 weeks later and they then realized why I had left them alone. It was because I waged the October battle and I said: Let God pardon everybody. I said this in respect to all offenders, including the communists, those calling themselves Nasirites and writers and journalists. I said: Let us begin a new phase. The October war ended; then came 1974 and at the beginning of 1975 we started to look ahead. I have always upheld my promises. I want and I will continue to insist on the prevalence of democracy, security, tranquillity and supremacy of the law. I will always insist on this. This will be my behavior and confrontation--because, as I am telling you, we might need a confrontation in the future. This time, as I declared before, I will not allow those who corrupted things before or after 23 July 1952, with the centers of power and torture, to have any control over the people. [applause]

I will not permit this. Let us be clear. What has happened is that the Cairo of 1978 is different from the Cairo of 1973 in that now there is a permament constitution; the parties law has been issued and four parties have been established; there are complete freedoms; democracy is being practiced; we have a state of institutions; every person, his home, his relatives and his family are secure. Still, they do not like it. This atmosphere exists in the Cairo of 1978 but they do not like it. They say: No. Everything is finished, gone.

Their talk, like bubbles on the surface of water, is worthless. They have taken advantage of the party for other purposes. We still adhere to the right of party activities. I insist on democracy, freedoms and security of the citizen's life, home wages and children and his children's children. I insist on all this. However, does this mean that the parties should exploit all this in order to begin taking us back 26 years, to the time before the eruption of the 1952 revolution, when a class representing 0.5 percent of the population was living while we, the peasants and workers who represented and continue to represent over 95 percent of the population, were not? The words peasant and worker were used by that class as swear words. Only landowners and feudalists entered parliament.

By their party activities they want to take us back again. What are they doing in the Cairo of 1978? In the Cairo of 1973, they said: As-Sadat is not going to fight. He is a defeatist and liquidationist. They used 15 other expressions. I laughed because, as I told you, the plan was taking its course and I was not much interested in replying to these bubbles. What concerned me was the broad base of the people with whom I would sit and to whom I would listen.

At that time, they accused me and the regime of being weak and so on and so forth and said that the end of this regime was inevitable. That took place in March 1973. I would have liked to have seen their faces in October 1973. However, since our people are naturally disposed to pardon, it is with this same disposition that I said: May God forgive what has happened.

What is happening in the Cairo of 1978? Democracy is being practiced. There are parties and a return to the multiparty system. We have actually reverted to this system. Parties have actually been established, following the promulgation of the party organization law.

Why must I not speak out? Am I against the establishment of parties or multilateral parties? Absolutely not. The establishment of parties and multilateral parties under democracy and in a consultative state is valid. It must be understood by those who are engaged in party activities that parties are not an end in themselves. Never. The objective is the Egyptian citizen's security, prosperity and dignity and this is what we are all working for. Parties should not revert to the corrupt practices which existed before the 23 July 1952 revolution and which made us rise and revolt, demanding the right of us all--we, the oppressed broad base, under a leadership which represented not more than 0.5 percent of the population.

Now they are reverting to the very same method. What is the new line of Cairo 1978? We must slander every responsible official or any man with an official capacity anywhere. We must spread rumors about him and we must interrogate him in the People's Assembly. Why is this so? In other words, I have personally forgotten the past and I am not opposed to the emergence of the parties and their multiplicity under the aegis of democracy.

Some people even hold it against me that immediately following the results of the elections and on the day the People's Assembly began working, I transformed all the activities of the platforms into parties, because they had indeed waged a full party election campaign. Then, why should we not practice party life? Since we have practiced party life in a campaign, since this has become a fact, and since the results have been gained on the basis of this campaign, let the parties emerge and shorten the time.

They do not understand the matter that way. No. Some agents believe that they can now achieve what they were unable to achieve in 1971, 1972 and 1973 by coercing the people. And I believe that the most eloquent example is that, to this day, this agent segment or this agent practice is reiterating that 18 and 19 January 1977 constituted a popular uprising. Out of the whole world, only Moscow repeats this story with them; they and Moscow. And, regrettably, we all know their affiliations and their relationships.

When it comes to the question of the left, we want an Egyptian left, an honorable Egyptian left, and we have absolutely no objection to the emergence of an Egyptian leftist organization. However, we are basically opposed to the activities of agents from within a leftist organization. We do not want agents within our Egyptian leftist organization. This is so because in its nature, this organization does not tolerate a dual loyalty. Loyalty should be given solely to one side; loyalty is due to Egypt. However, as far as loyalty to the Soviet Union is concerned, they can establish a party in any other country--but not here in Egypt. In this country, loyalty is to Egypt alone.

Under the slogan of democracy and freedom and because they now own a licensed newspaper under the party law--enacted for the first time in Egypt's history, a law which does not insist that they resort to the Interior Ministry or to any other quarter to have a license issued--because under the party law they can found and print their newspaper, and they are printing one, many leaders, regrettably, are publishing exactly according to their past characteristic of stupidity, which they inherited from the Soviet Union.

They do not rectify their biases, nor do they ever understand. They think they can resort to incitement and to saying that 18 and 19 January constituted a popular uprising, as if when the Egyptian people want to stage a popular uprising they must all be thieves, because all those who participated in that uprising were thieves. By God, you are then accusing your people. Do you want your people to stage an uprising of thieves? No, your people will carry out a popular uprising. Indeed so; they make their advocations and demands and stand up and hold their ground, as they have always done throughout their lives. But those who carried out this uprising were a few thieves. Are these the Egyptian people? Do we call it a popular uprising? They are still insisting on saying this.

Take their newspaper up to its latest edition--and no one has banned it to this day. Those of you who read it have indeed read much in it. Are incitement, striking at social peace and taking advantage of the people's suffering acts of bravery? Is it a brave action for us to say that the people are tired? Yes, they are tired. The people are tired and are suffering. And I am saying these things here; I am saying and declaring them with my words now, while I am engaging in self-criticism of the government and in light of your demands. Just as we are forging ahead in our procession, we will equitably share our food, whatever it is. As long as we are all taking our food equally, there is nothing wrong with this; there is nothing shameful in it. [applause] This is not shameful. We will all share our food equally. This is not shameful. Never.

How do they exploit words in this newspaper? They say: Egyptian workers, act in good time, because the public sector is definitely on the way to liquidation.

Listen to me citing to you one fact so that it will be clear: In 1977 the investments amounted to 1,636,500,000 pounds. Of this sum, 1.42 billion went to the public sector, while 216 million pounds went to the private sector--less than one-sixth. Such a figure is sufficient proof. This figure is available in the People's Assembly and everywhere else, but they are trying to undermine the social peace because the only way for them to implement their plans is to hit at the people.

How can they hit the people? They can do so through propaganda, rumors, casting doubts on all officials, and fabrication. They talk about the process of liquidating the public sector. This figure is known and is not hidden. The figure I am giving is nothing new. The public sector received 1.42 billion pounds, while the private sector received only 216 million pounds in 1 year. This is not a new figure which we have been hiding. It is known. But where is the prevarication? The prevarication is in the Cairo of 1978. This is the 1978 Cairo of the water bubbles and not of the popular base. What else is new? They claim that the cabinet is on its way out and there is no hope for it. What did I say? I know the sources of these people. They express emotions of hatred and bitterness. They are defeatists who advocated defeatism even before the October war.

I examined what the government did from 1975 to 1977. We are at the beginning of 1978. What was achieved from 1975 to 1977? I told you that the public sector received 1.42 billion pounds of the investments in 1 year, while the private sector received 216 million pounds. The investment in production amounted to 12.22 billion pounds in 1977, compared to 11 billion pounds in 1976, an increase of 1.2 billion pounds in 1 year. Figures do not lie. They are earmarked and are available in the People's Assembly and everywhere else.

Production increased by 30 percent in 1976 and 1977, an annual rate of 15 percent. The total national income amounted to 6.483 billion pounds in these 2 years, compared to 4.779 billion pounds before--an increase from 4 to 6 billion pounds. The wages and salaries of the government and public sector employees amounted to 915 million pounds in 1974. They increased to 1.401 billion pounds--an increase of 486 million pounds, an increase of a little more than one-half in 2 years. [as heard] The sum of 1.815 billion pounds is allocated for wages and salaries in the 1978 budget. This represents an increase of 904 million pounds [figure as heard] over the basic year of 1974, or approximately 98 percent. You will feel all this after the approval of the laws which are being held in abeyance by the 1978 Cairo. The government has provided 600,000 jobs in 2 years. These are figures about the work of the government in the 2 years from 1975 to 1977.

What are they saying? They say such and such a minister is an opportunist; we must interrogate him. Such and such a minister must be terrified and paralyzed.

There is another matter, which I have not really been following closely, because, as you know, I am devoting my entire time to planning for the future. I want to secure the future of our sons and future generations, beginning with your generation, who will work in the new industries. My work is to open wide vistas before my people so that everyone will be able to assert himself.

I received a letter from a university professor concerning the Pyramid Hill project. This letter really surprised me. He said that the Cairo of 1978 is exactly as it used to be during the days of the old parties before 1952. The letter cast doubt on the government and poked fun at it. It was also subversive and full of rumors. He said the Pyramid Hill project shows that the government is dishonest. Why?

Very simply, before you today I will entrust the prime minister with certain tasks. Among these tasks I will ask him to study this project himself. If this project is good, he will recommend it and explain the story. If it is not good, it will be abandoned. No one can force us to take something we do not want. [applause]

They are trying to undermine the government. There is interrogation of the government every day, 10 or 20 questions every day. These questions, if they are going to be answered, need a complete People's Assembly session or two. What is happening to the basic bills that have not yet been passed?

The tax bill constitutes one of the pillars of the regime because it distributes the burdens evenly. The well-to-do must shoulder part of the burden. Those with limited income will not be asked to shoulder anything and will be exempt. Burdens must be distributed among us evenly.

Two sessions of the People's Assembly have ended and the tax law has not been passed yet. It is supposed to be passed during the current session. I hope so, because otherwise the People's Assembly will be called to account before the people.

I would like to say something to our brothers in the People's Assembly. The recent behavior of the People's Assembly in four consecutive incidents is regrettable and departs from all traditions and values of the Egyptian society.

Egyptian society does not accept slander, casting doubt, nerve-breaking techniques, attempts to obstruct or malicious maneuvers, which some bubbles [faqaqi'] are carrying out for the purpose of returning to power. It is possible that in an unguarded moment they will try to grab power.

Maneuvers are taking place. All of them are hearing me now and I know them. They cast doubt on every official, every minister and obstruct the basic work of the People's Assembly, which is control and legislation.

They are the representatives of the people at the highest level of direct representation. As you heard, with the testimony of even the opposition, no elections were as honest as those that were held. What has happened then?

The basic tax law is based on social justice. Under the open-door economic policy, some imbalance occurred in the distribution of income. Well, to correct this imbalance I would have to begin applying custodianship or to confiscate and nationalize, but you know that I do not do these things. Therefore, the burdens should be redistributed by law and through the supremacy of the law in such a way that everyone will shoulder his share of the burden according to his ability. The parasitic incomes and the incomes which grew as a result of the open-door policy must also bear their share of the responsibility or else be prosecuted, because this is a crime against the people.

As I have told you, I want to provide security for every man and woman in Egypt even in the remotest desert areas. I want to provide security for every Egyptian, as far as his life, health, old age, disability and death are concerned. This is the basis of my system of democratic socialism.

Of course, regarding the maneuvers to impede the Assembly's exercise of its legislative and control duties--control has become an instrument for obstruction and for gaining fame for the sake of fame--and regarding the basic work, in my capacity as an umpire for the various authorities, I tell them that this course will not be allowed by the people. The people also will not allow the stooping to a hitherto inconceivable level of argument, insults and treatment among People's Assembly members who represent the biggest constitutional institution. Under the dome of their Assembly, the constitution, the traditions and ethics are supposed to be respected. We will never as people accept this image of the People's Assembly.

Some may think that I want to dissolve the Assembly. No, not at all. Why? Because it was I who made it, and it is yours and belongs to all of you. In 1971 we introduced the permanent constitution. All the previous constitutions, up to the 1971 constitution which I introduced, and also the constitutions of some great democratic states such as that of Britain, the cradle of democracy [sentence left unfinished]. Britain's constitution to this day, and our constitutions at the time of the king, stipulate that the king has the power to dissolve parliament.

In 1971 when he drafted the permanent constitution, I insisted that the president of the republic shall not have the right to dissolve the People's Assembly except by a popular referendum. In other words, there should be a reason for it. Why did I do this? To protect parliamentary life.

I served as speaker of the assembly for a long time. It was I who drafted the Assembly's bylaws which they now apply. Today, I am sorry to say that these bylaws are being abused. Before 1971, under the monarchy and other regimes, all bylaws said that in order to be submitted a question should be supported by 20 members. I abolished this in the 1971 constitution. I stipulated that anyone has the right to submit an inquiry, on the grounds that we are making traditions and building a democracy. The Assembly shall not be dissolved and every member has a right to submit a question without the need for 20 other signatures. This is a new provision which did not exist before 1971.

As I said, I drafted it with my own hand for the sake of democratic exercise. However, we find that questions disappear. Well, if there is an incident in the country the deputies will want to discuss it or talk about it--any sudden incident. If a question is submitted, the procedure is time-consuming because it goes to the government and the government has to reply and has to set a date for a session for it to be submitted and then another session, and so on. Under the democratic practices there is such a thing as an information request, meaning that a member can submit a request for some information and the minister has to answer him on the same day.

Why? Because it is an incident which calls for immediate handling and in order that the parliament may truly exercise all its powers of supervision and legislation, even in the case of a transient incident. Our previous constitutions--and even the 1923 constitution, on which they were capitalizing--did not make such provisions. I have provided all this. But what has happened? The applications for information, questions and answers have become endless.

I want the taxation bill passed. It is the philosophy of the system which redistributes the burdens. I want the laws on the protection and personal status of women passed. The women represent half of our society. A woman is not a commodity and must never be treated as a commodity. A woman represents half of the society, and she is the one who produces our future generations on which we will depend in the future.

What is all this? By virtue of my position as a judge, I want to draw the attention of the People's Assembly to the fact that neither the people nor any individual agrees that matters should proceed in this manner. The People's Assembly's bylaw, which the deputies themselves prepare without any interference, must include all guarantees that the march will not be hindered and that there will be no exploitation of the spirit of freedom and democracy and of immunity from dismissal which I provided for the deputies in the constitution. Not even the president of the republic has the power to dismiss them. All these are guarantees. Thy bylaw should include counterguarantees that any member who makes any accusations against any person or any member of the cabinet must bear the consequences and must be brought to task if he proves to be wrong. We must not leave matters as they stand now. [applause]

As matters stand now, it is as if all the people are thieves and partners in their theft and that all the people do as they please. These issues have been discussed. After looking into dozens of inquiries, we found out that all charges were baseless. When an inquiry is made, it becomes a case because an inquiry is an accusation. The government might escape the accusation or it might not. This has been the nature of the inquiry all the time. The inquiry has become cheaper than the question. [as heard] In view of all this, I ask the People's Assembly to sit and prepare its bylaw by its own free will in order that democracy may proceed without exploitation, hindrance and plotting by the bubbles in an attempt to obstruct the march and instigate the country against its rulers and officials.

Since the 23 July revolution we have never got into the state that prevailed before 1952. I am a witness to this and there are thousands of other witnesses. They include senior thinkers, journalists and writers. I hope they will come out and tell the people what used to happen in the past. What happened before 23 July 1952 has never happened since the revolution. It is true that some excesses were committed by the revolution. Certain excessive security measures were adopted. After the 15 May revolution, I not only restored everything to normal but also introduced things which did not exist in Egypt at the time of Mamluks, Muhammad 'Ali, parties, Mustafa Kamil, Sa'd Zaghlul or anyone else. The constitutions then did not provide the freedoms which I have granted. The constitution at that time prevented the king from dissolving the national assembly. The king used to tell them very simply: This constitution is a gift from me. He proved this in the first constitution of 1923.

No. After our revolution, after the 1971 corrective revolution, we the people wrote our constitution with our own hands and provided guarantees. No one can violate the immunity and guarantees given to the People's Assembly. On the other hand, it is true that the constitution stipulates that an Assembly member shall not be punished for views he expresses in the Assembly, but this matter does not go as far as using abusive methods. It does not mean that abusive methods should not be punished. No. If the member has views or opinions, he can express them, but the constitution does not provide immunity for abuses inside the Assembly hall. No. Absolutely not.

This is why I am asking the People's Assembly, like all the other institutions--I am asking the members of the People's Assembly to draw up their own statutes and provide the guarantees given them under the constitution so as to enjoy them as they wish, but they should also give guarantees to every person in Egypt so that he may not be subjected to defamation or disparagement.

When these matters are discussed [in the People's Assembly] it emerges after a while that all this is unfounded, and we are left with rumors and defamation that take us back to the pre-1952 methods.

As I have told you, I reject this method. As I have also told you, we might need to confront this method. By virture of my position, I shall confront such a method and I shall confront it with the peasants and workers if necessary. I will enter the battle with them. I do not need armed forces, because I have kept our armed forces outside the political game. Their task is to protect and defend the people. They have achieved for the people what no one else had achieved for them before by the 15 May revolution, which is an extension of the 23 July revolution.

Regrettably, the democratic practice in parliament is erroneous. The parties which are now trying to settle their account with the 23 July revolution are practicing democracy wrongly. In all the measures it has taken--measures which they are now exaggerating--the 23 July revolution did not kill any of them, as would have been done in 1952 or as would have been done if the 1952 revolution had not occurred and a communist coup had taken place instead, like what is now happening in Afghanistan. There they are slaying people in the streets and killing children in front of their father and then killing the father. They bring the children and grandchildren before their father and open fire on them, and then they open fire on the father. This is what the communist coup in Afghanistan is doing. If the 23 July 1952 revolution had not erupted, the same thing would have happened to them here in the streets. Whatever measures were taken, eventually the 23 July and 15 May revolutions achieved the most magnificent things any person could imagine. Freedom, democracy and the opportunities that are available to the Egyptian citizen nowadays were never available before--no matter what they say--either with regard to the guarantee of freedoms, security, safety or the closure of the detention camps. I challenge anyone.

Until our revolution took place in 1952, the detention camps were full. Each party that came to power used to put in detention the members of the party that preceded it. These are the people who are now seeking to come back to practice democracy in the name of the people. The malevolent and those who have accounts to settle should not practice democracy in the name of the people. I am saying clearly to them that everyone in the land of Egypt has the right to security, safety and the supremacy of the law. Everyone also had a duty to perform. Everyone must understand the responsible phase through which his country is passing and which reflects on his deeds, whether in his speech, in his performance, in his work or in his writings. He is committed to this for his country which is providing him with security, safety, the supremacy of the law and security for future generations and in which there are no confiscations, custodianships or anything else.

That concerned the People's Assembly and the parties. Regarding the cabinet, in view of the important subjects you raised with me at this meeting and in order to achieve what we want, I demand that the prime minister carry out an immediate reshuffle of his cabinet aimed at establishing the following: [applause] We will not permit negative actions or ideological intimidation to frighten some ministers into not making decisions lest their minds be paralyzed. The result would be that the people would suffer and complain. Why would he fail to adopt a decision? Because some are waging a war of nerves and talk about him. No. I want ministers who are not afraid of any confrontation. I want them to confront any problems. I know that none of the ministers is after something. The job of a minister is no longer coveted as before. For your information, a middle-class journalist earns 400 pounds--about twice the salary of a minister. This is what a middle-class journalist earns, not a senior journalist. The post of a minister is no longer an ambition or an advantage, but hard and exhaustive work.

Nevertheless, I want to say that in the cabinet reshuffle I demand of the prime minister that the ministers shoulder their responsibility. I will, for example, cite the Pyramid Hill project. Although this project was discussed in the People's Assembly, some people in the People's Assembly wrongly understood by what I said that nobody should discuss the Pyramid Hill project.

What I am saying is that no one should question a decision adopted by the People's Assembly on any issue. I did not imply that nobody should speak about the Pyramid Hill project. I want the people to get used to some organization. When the People's Assembly adopts a resolution following several studies by committees and public debates, such a resolution must be respected so that the state of institutions can run its affairs. Otherwise, those people who are outbidding and acting like bubbles would then attempt to claim that there is nothing called a state of institutions and would attempt to hinder the work of the People's Assembly, the cabinet or any other work. I want ministers who can shoulder their responsibility and confront any person whether in the People's Assembly or outside it.

Regarding the Pyramid Hill project, it is a very simple problem. The subject will be studied again, as I said. This should not be a problem here and it is not a part of the basis of the system. If someone came to me, for example, to talk about the tax bill and social justice, I would tell him no, for this is part of the basis of the system. However, regarding the Pyramid Hill project, the probability of wrong and right is not excluded. The project will be restudied immediately and all facts will be put before the people. This will be in response to the people's feelings in this respect. Therefore, politically the people's feelings must be taken into consideration by reexamining the whole subject and putting the facts before the entire people.

I ask the cabinet, as we are proceeding, to apply a policy of openness. As you and as the people have said, the policy of openness must be one of production, not consumption. I am aware of the fact that some people, as a result of a long deprivation when Egypt was closed to the outside world, desired certain consumer goods. This was before, and it is understood. However, now the people are not deprived of anything in this respect. Before, the people were prohibited from traveling; now they can travel. The people could not buy before, now they can. After this, the openness must turn to production, not consumption.

The third and very important point concerns you. I said in my previous speech that consumer societies must be set up for you in all your work areas, to meet your every need. Why? Because you and the low-level government employees must be looked after. Conditions in the private sector have improved and so have the conditions of our brothers the taxi drivers, the builders and utensil cleaners. All have improved except you, the workers of the private sector and the government employees. This is why you will have consumer societies. Secondly, the prices, as you have asked, will be fixed. Thirdly, the wages will be raised to correspond to the level of the prices. [applause]

The fifth point [as heard], as far as the cabinet is concerned, is as I have said that services shall be available to the popular areas and the low-level employees.

The sixth point is the green revolution which you have heard me talk about. From now until 1980 we will be at the bottleneck as they say. [answering something unintelligible from the audience] I know, I know. We will do so. The government will first fix the prices and then raise [the wages] and then provide you with services in the area of your residence until your retirement. From now until 1980 we will be at the bottleneck. This does not mean that we will just sit and wait for 1980. Without exaggerating, I say that the land I saw in the new valley meets all the aspirations and ambitions of everyone, whether he is a worker, a peasant, a university graduate or anyone else. There is enough for everyone to build for himself and to be satisfied, and also to increase the country's output.

I have asked the cabinet--as you also heard me ask there in Aswan--to immediately form the green revolution authority and have it commence its work, because this is the operation of a lifetime as far as we are concerned. Unless we increase production and achieve food sufficiency and sell, we will suffer very much. By 1980 we must be completely self-sufficient in food, God willing. I hope I have not taken much of your time, but it was necessary for us to talk about all our affairs.

Brothers and sisters, I have perhaps taken my time answering the many questions being raised in the Egyptian, Arab, and international arenas these days in my phrase: "Where do we stand now and where are we heading?"

As I have told you, we are all with Egypt. We are all with Egypt in facing the problems of the challenge, whatever those who cast doubt say. We will always be one solid front joined together by national unity and social peace. I repeat here that I will have no mercy on anyone who tries to undermine the social peace in Egypt by inciting classes or people against one another or by staging uprisings of thieves. Our front is joinded together by social peace and it sweats and works hard out of sacred faith in building our democratic socialism.

Brothers and sisters, on this day of labor and workers, I appeal from this platform to every male and female Egyptian to think about what they have given and are giving before they think about what they will take, because there is no taking without giving and no income without work. Our socialism is that of legitimate gain. It is the socialism of giving to those who have nothing. Our socialism is that of insuring the disabled. To achieve prosperity, there must be more production. I told my sons, brothers and friends in all the places of work whom I saw when I visited upper Egypt and the canal area earlier, that we can only achieve prosperity through more production and through light which will illuminate for us the signs on the road, cut short distances and protect Egypt against the highwaymen.

I appeal to my sons, brothers and friends in every responsible department in the government, public sector and private sector, and tell them: Be aware that every Egyptian who is successful in his field and good in his specialization is worthy of confidence and encouragement. We must change our conditions.

Verily, never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves. Forsake hypocrisy and defend Egypt lest this disease become an epidemic. Forsake exploitation and opportunism and understand that honest and sincere work is the only criterion for promotion and success. Forsake fear of making decisions. A person who cannot make a decision is a paralyzed member of the society. We do not need paralytics. Gather and unite to defend democracy from the enemies of democracy. The most bitter enemies of democracy are those who seek to lead democracy in the name of its slogans to the ruins of chaos, doubt and despondency. Its most bitter enemies are those who exploit words under freedom to turn it into a tool of intimidation and terror by those who do not work and whose hatred does not let them be pleased to see others working and the society progressing.

Brothers and sisters, my appeal to you is also an oath, pledge and commitment on my part. I will be with you day and night with all the strength and ability which God has given me. I shall abide by my oath and remain loyal to my pledge. There shall be no coercion or tyranny, but more responsible democracy. All of us, rulers and ruled, are one solid family and one heart, discarding hatred and defending democracy. Our weapon is one. It is work and justice along the path of love and prosperity.

Our Lord, condemn us not if we forget or fall into error; our Lord [the Koranic verse remains unfinished due to a 2-minute commotion after which president As-Sadat concludes his speech] The 10 days, yes. Many happy returns.

SALIM: CABINET RESHUFFLE WILL BE 'VERY LIMITED'

NC022036Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 May--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim has said that the ministerial reshuffle is expected to be announced on Thursday or Friday evening and that it will be a very limited reshuffle.

PAKISTANI MILITARY LEADER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

NC021540Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 2 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 May--The first military round of talks between Egyptian Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi and the chairman of the Pakistani Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Gen Mohammad Sharif, began in the War Ministry at noon today. The talks dealt with the consolidation of the military relations between Egypt and Pakistan.

The Pakistani guest arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a military delegation on an 8-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Egyptian Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, who was at the airport to receive him on his arrival.

IRAQI PAPERS CRITICIZE PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS

JN0308035Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May--Today the Iraqi newspapers comment on the statements by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who shattered the hopes of those regimes who yearn for a settlement. The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says that in his statements Carter stressed his adoption of the Begin plan as a basis for settlement and his definite rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state and the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the territory occupied in 1967.

The paper points out that Carter has again revealed the true face of U.S. imperialism and its aggressive intentions. He has also disclosed that the United States will continue to stand on the side of the Zionist enemy. The paper says that in his statements Carter has given clear and frank answers as to the U.S. stand and that he wants a settlement without withdrawal or a Palestinian state.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Carter's statements emphasized the absolute commitment of the U.S. to guarantee so-called "Israeli security." The paper says that Carter stated with absolute frankness his opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state and to Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. Carter clearly was in close harmony with the aggressive U.S.-Zionist stand.

Referring to the prosettlement regimes who wagered on the U.S. horse, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that these regimes still refuse to admit that the U.S. stand on Zionism is firm and unchangeable. The paper says that the principles of the U.S. administration are the same principles on which world Zionism is based--aggression, enslavement of people and occupation of territory.

INA REPORTS BAGHDAD RALLY MARKING LABOR DAY

JN0118457 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 May--The Iraqi working class today celebrated 1 May under the patronage of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

President al-Bakr was represented by Muhyi 'Abd al-Husayn, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and secretary of the party's Central Workers Bureau, at the big rally which took place at the International People's Stadium in Baghdad this morning.

President al-Bakr's representative began his speech on the occasion by conveying the greetings of President al-Bakr to the working class. He addressed the workers, saying: Your celebrations on 1 May are an occasion which clearly reflects the course of the Ba'th Party struggle. It also expresses the party's deep appreciation of the role and position of the working class and the toiling masses. The celebrations symbolize the resolute determination to erase all signs of exploitation and the squander of human dignity, to remove all the material, political and social components on which class oppression and social injustice are based, and to build a new society in which human relations and values prevail. This society should consider work as the basis and source of wealth, prosperity and progress.

Muhyi 'Abd al-Husayn said: The alliance between imperialism and Zionism on the one hand and the forces of class exploitation on the other makes it incumbent upon our working class to shoulder the responsibilities of firmly confronting the capitulationist solutions and the defeatist and collusive policies of the defeatists regimes, and of working seriously to strengthen the unity of the working class and the unity of its trade and political unions.

The president's representative referred to the imperialist onslaught against the Arab homeland, particularly its actions in Lebanon which aim at liquidating the Palestinian resistance and disolving its cohesion with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in preparation for imposing a capitulationist settlement, destroying the Palestinian cause and bringing about imperialist domination over the Arab homeland.

He said that the objectives of this onslaught are an integral part of the Arab reactionary objectives, of feudalism and the bourgeoisie, and of their endeavors to destroy the progressive forces of the Arab working class and their unity supported by the pan-Arab struggle.

Muhyi 'Abd al-Husayn asserted that the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions will struggle with revolutionary determination to unify the Arab working class, to unify its trade unions, and to consolidate its principled and determined stand against imperialist plots and capitulationist solutions.

In his speech, the president's representative pointed out the series of gains and accomplishments that have been achieved by the command of the party and revolution for the working class, gains which have guaranteed the full rights of workers on all legal, material and moral levels.

OFFICIAL RETURNS TO BAGHDAD AFTER ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

JN020800Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0738 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May--Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned here at dawn today after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 9th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, held in the Senegalese capital of Dakar from 22-28 April.

In a statement he gave to INA on his arrival, 'Alwan stated that the conference adopted a number of resolutions, and in particular one dealing with the Palestinian issue. This resolution asserted that the Palestinian cause is the crux of the struggle in the area. The conference also condemned all policies and practices that violate or deviate from the conference's resolutions on this issue. 'Alwan added that the conference, with the exception of the Egyptian representation, voted unanimously with 42 voices for the PLO's right to reject any form of capitulationist settlement undertakings that would harm the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

IRISH MINISTER OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE RECEIVED

JN021952Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May--Charles J. Haughey, Irish minister of health and social welfare, met here today with several Iraqi officials. The Irish minister met with Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and minister of oil, who briefed him on Iraq's experiment in the sphere of oil production and on its direct investment program.

The Irish minister then met with Babakr mahmud rasul al-Bashdari, minister of labor and social affairs, and discussed with him bilateral relations, particularly in the sphere of labor and services, and the means to strengthen these relations in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

AMMAN AR-RA'Y CRITICIZES PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT

JN0111453Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 May 78 pp 1, 10 JN

[Editorial: 'The 99.9 Percent Catastrophe']

[Text] Thanks are due to President Carter, because he did not wish to burden certain Arabs with having to sit before the geomancers to find out the extent of U.S. ability to influence Israel into changing its intransigent stand. In this matter the U.S. President took the short cut. Suddenly, without forewarning and on the eve of the White House celebration of "Israel's independence day" in the presence of Menahem Begin, the U.S. President said that a lasting settlement does not require a complete withdrawal from the occupied lands. He expressed his conviction that such a settlement would actually be based on Begin's plan of granting self-rule to the Palestinian Arabs.

With the same ease with which President Carter was given 99.9 percent of the cards he needed to solve the area's crisis, he abandoned these cards without regret. In doing so he was mindful only of having Israel and the Zionist lobby in the United States satisfied with him and with his administration--an administration on which the Arabs have pinned their hopes for the past 12 months, prompting them to give in to the "U.S. promise" to solve the conflict.

It is perhaps needless to remind you now that we have repeatedly said that the United States cannot exert pressure on Israel to change its intransigent stand. It seems that the Arabs who did not listen to our advice have found themselves confused by the clear and specific statements which President Carter made, and which are in line with Israel's expansionist ambitions for settlement in the occupied Arab lands.

The catastrophe in the U.S. statement is that Carter tried to equate the Indians of the United States with the Arabs of Palestine, seeing there a similarity in the two centuries of the catastrophe suffered by the Indians in North America. The real calamity in our Arab world, however, is that our leaders have not yet realized the importance of building an intrinsic Arab force which is capable of imposing the Arab will and of facing the options imposed by Israel as an alternative to the process of diplomatic peace in the area.

AD-DUSTUR PRAISES AS-SADAT'S POSITION ON ARAB SOLIDARITY

JN0306000Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 May 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Step Toward Arab Solidarity" the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes: We welcome the readiness which President as-Sadat displayed yesterday to reestablish diplomatic relations between Egypt and the countries of the steadfastness front. We also welcome President as-Sadat's support for Arab solidarity, his desire to convene an Arab summit conference and his reaffirmation of his commitment to an overall solution to the Mideast question on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to determine their future on their land. This would open the door to rebuilding unified Arab ranks. This is indispensable if the Arabs are serious in their attempt to confront the situation facing them and to act within a unified strategy to restore their rights.

AD-DUSTUR further says: However, all this does not prevent us from extending a sincere call to Cairo not to return to any bilateral talks with Israel until after the summit conference has been convened. This is particularly so because Begin hinted yesterday that a step toward resuming these talks would be discussed shortly.

The paper says: Regardless of this unknown development, of which no sign has yet been seen to indicate that it will include a substantial change in the Israeli stand on withdrawal, settlements, or the Palestinian people's rights, Egypt had better suspend any new contact with Israel until after the summit conference has convened, particularly since President as-Sadat himself has said that its task will be to define an Arab stand and draw up an Arab policy.

It must be clear that our call does not mean that we impose a precondition on Cairo, but it is a logical requirement, because the Arab summit conference will draw up an Arab strategy. We must remind others that there is no justification for any Arab side to demand that Cairo give up its initiative as a condition for participating in the summit conference. The fate of the initiative, whether to continue with it or give it up, remains for the summit conference to decide within the context of an Arab strategy which will be drawn up by the summit and to which all the Arab parties will be committed.

In conclusion, AD-DUSTUR says: As-Sadat has taken a constructive step toward restoring unity within the Arab ranks. This step must be shown as a fraternal response that bypasses formalities and appreciates the serious stage which the whole Arab nation is passing through so that the summit conference will convene and draw up the desired Arab strategy as soon as possible.

UN DELEGATE URGES WALDHEIM TO CHECK ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS

JN0205302 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Dr Hazim Nusaybah, has urged UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim to adopt prompt measures to stop the excavations being carried out by the Zionist occupying authorities in occupied Jerusalem.

In a letter to the secretary general, Dr Nusaybah stated that these excavation operations will lead to the collapse of historic and religious buildings at any moment. Dr Nusaybah also stated that the Israeli excavations have reached a depth of 11 meters below these buildings and that any collapse will alter the religious and historic character of the holy places in occupied Jerusalem. This will constitute a blatant violation of United Nations resolutions on this subject.

BADRAN ATTENDS CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

JN0211482 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] The National Consultative Council held a session today under its speaker, Ahmad al-Lawzi. It was also attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and several ministers. During the session, the council discussed several topics, including the request made by some of its members to amend the council's law. The council's speaker decided to postpone discussion of this request, since the council's internal bylaws will be drawn up within 2 weeks.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran addressed the session and said that the government will brief the council members on foreign, financial and economic policy as well as on all activities that take place in the various ministries so that the members can submit proposals and advice based on accurate information.

The council speaker thanked Mudar Badran for his initiative of acquainting the council with domestic and foreign affairs based on the principle of participation and the expression of opinion.

PALESTINIAN FORCES CLASH WITH DETERRENT FORCES, UN TROOPS

TA021958Y Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 2 May 78 TA

[Text] Sidon, South Lebanon, May 2 (AFP)--Palestinian guerrillas and units of the Syrian-dominated Arab peace-keeping force were involved in heavy fighting today near the port of Sidon, informed sources reported.

Fighting broke out at 5 p.m. local (1400 GMT) and was continuing in the early evening near the port and the town's old quarter nearby, the sources said. Cars were ablaze and several peddlers were killed in the clashes, the sources said. According to fragmentary reports, shells, mainly from mortars, were still falling tonight.

The barracks house a French parachute batallion commanded by Colonel Jean Germain Salvan, head of the UN force's French contingent.

A clash was also reported tonight between Senegalese members of the UN force and Palestinian guerrillas at 'Abbasiyah a few kilometers (miles) northeast of Tyre, reports reaching the southern city of Sidon said.

At the same time Senegalese troops had intercepted four armed guerrillas who infiltrated UN lines at Qana ten kms (8 miles) southeast of Tyre. French and Senegalese troops have set up a double line east of Tyre to keep out armed men.

The barracks housing the French contingent at the southern exit from Tyre is close to the Palestinian camps of Burj ash-Shali and Ar-Rashidiyah.

The Palestinian resistance here tonight had no immediate information on the Tyre situation.

Voice of Lebanon Report

NC021950Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 2 May 78 NC

[Text] Reports from Sidon indicate that fierce clashes took place in the town of Sidon between the Arab deterrent forces and elements belonging to fedayeen organizations. Life in the town came to a complete standstill as a result of the clashes. No information has been received so far on losses in life and property.

Meanwhile, at 2100 tonight the battles intensified between the French UN troops and the Palestinian forces and their allies when vehicles moved toward the French UN barriers and clashed with them. The clashes are continuing.

The Voice of Lebanon radio correspondent reports from the south that the French UN troops and the Palestinians have sustained a number of dead and wounded. He adds that there were contacts between the French UN troops and the French Embassy in Beirut in order to tackle the situation after it suddenly erupted in southern Lebanon.

Yasir 'Arafat has asked the leaders of the Palestinian resistance and leftist parties to an emergency meeting to be held at 2200 tonight in order to discuss the unforeseen events.

Al-Huss Requests 'Arafat Intervention

JN0220047Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2034 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 May--Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss today contacted PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and discussed with him the recent clashes between the UN forces and the joint nationalist forces in southern Lebanon.

Sources close to the prime minister said that Al-Huss asked 'Arafat to exert efforts to control these clashes.

Joint Forces Spokesman on Clashes

JN0221107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2052 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 May--A spokesman of the joint forces command has stated that the joint forces command is dealing with the ramifications of the clashes which resulted from provocations by the French forces under UNIFIL against groups from our forces operating behind enemy lines. Quoting the spokesman, the Palestinian news agency WAFA said that a meeting was held in Tyre between the UN forces and the joint forces. The French guards belonging to Colonel Salvan clashed with an armed group on its way back from the meeting. The clash resulted in the martyrdom of the companion of the joint forces liaison officer and the wounding of two soldiers from the colonel's group. The wounded were rushed to the hospital.

French Commander Wounded

NC0307057 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Yesterday's clashes in southern Lebanon between UN forces and armed men occupied the attention of the politicians, who had been following the political situation regarding the formation of the new government. While activities were focused on the ministerial situation, the incident in the Tyre area caught official quarters by surprise. The incident resulted in the death of a number of soldiers from the French unit and the wounding of the commander of the unit, who was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Prime Minister-Designate Dr Salim al-Huss held several contacts aimed at containing the repercussions of the incident.

In New York, the UN secretary general expressed concern over the incident. He said he greatly regrets the attacks on the French forces in Tyre, noting that the primary task of these forces is to keep the peace in the south. He also expressed regret over the wounding of Colonel Salvan.

The UN secretary general expressed concern over the possibility of such incidents occurring again. He held contacts with UN officials on this incident. He also ordered the UNIFIL commander to cut short his visit to New York and return immediately to his post in southern Lebanon.

Al-Huss, French Envoy Contacts

NC0308167 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 May 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister-Designate Dr Salim al-Huss this morning held a telephone conversation with French Ambassador Hubert Argod and reviewed with him the implications of yesterday's incident in Tyre.

Al-Huss expressed deep regret over the incident, in which a number of French soldiers attached to the United Nations interim forces in Lebanon were wounded.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS COMMENTS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

NC0212l4Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 May 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has stated that he has not yet received any official word on the line in the south to which the Israeli forces have withdrawn. He added: However, according to unofficial information I have received, a withdrawal has taken place and is almost identical to that Israel has promised, although I am not yet sure if Israel has withdrawn from a certain area from which it was supposed to withdraw. I will be officially informed about this soon.

On reports that the UN forces will be increased from 4,000 to 6,000 men, Foreign Minister Butrus said: According to my information, the UN secretary general intends to ask the UN Security Council to increase the UN forces to 6,000 men. Lebanon, naturally, does not oppose this step. Lebanon also believes that it will be useful if the Security Council, through the UN secretary general, also asks Israel to present a firm timetable for its withdrawal from the area it still occupies in the south.

Foreign Minister Butrus said: Increasing the numerical strength of the UN forces will also help the UN Secretariat General implement the Security Council resolution in all its provisions. This is in the interest of everyone, since we insist on Israel's withdrawal and on restoring our sovereignty in the south.

Asked his view of Moshe Dayan's statement on the settlement of the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Butrus said: We were not waiting for Minister Dayan to declare that there is a plan for the settlement of the Palestinians. I have not read a statement that a plan for settling the Palestinians exists, for us to reject. In January 1978 His Excellency President Sarkis adopted a firm and frank stand on this issue.

Asked whether he has sought clarification from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut on remarks made by Carter and Begin on the situation in the area during their recent meeting, Foreign Minister Butrus said: We always seek clarifications that enable us to formulate a clear idea of what is taking place in the Middle East. Also, we always affirm our viewpoint on anything connected with this subject, which is vital to Lebanon and to its future and safety, in addition to the fact that it may lead to a just solution of the Palestinian issue on Palestinian territory.

EXPLOSION IN ZGHARTA WOUNDS 14 PERSONS

NC0218l2Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 May 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss telephoned former President Sulayman Franjiyah in Zgharta this evening to express his regret over the incident which resulted in the wounding of some innocent citizens. Prime Minister al-Huss also held a series of contacts with the security organs and instructed them to hunt down the perpetrators of the incident and contain its consequences.

An explosive charge which was placed under a private car in Zgharta square went off last night, wounding 14 persons, who were immediately taken to the hospital for treatment. Strict orders have been given to the competent security organs to investigate this incident and hunt down the criminals.

DAMASCUS CRITICIZES CARTER STATEMENT, ASSAILS AS-SADAT

JN021922Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 May 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Jimmy Carter has offered terrorist Menahem Begin a big gift just before the beginning of the latter's visit to the United States. In clear and unambiguous terms Carter announced that he rejects the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and considers the self-administration proposal [al-'idarah adh-dhatiyah] put forward by Israel as a means to establish peace in the Middle East. Carter reiterated his country's commitment to what he called Israel's security and pledged to continue supplying Israel with modern weapons and fighter planes.

These statements are completely biased in Israel's favor. They offer encouragement and reward to the aggressor and violate all international resolutions on the Palestinian problem and the Middle East crisis. Despite all this, these statements did not come as a surprise to political observers and did not add anything new to the position of the U.S. administration which is biased in favor of Israeli aggressiveness. The United States tried for a while to appear in the guise of a neutral mediator, but was not able to preserve such an appearance. The United States has continuously affirmed that it is on Israel's side and would not abandon it despite the latter's intransigence, its challenge to the international community, its flouting of international resolutions and will, and such monstrous and criminal measures as its invasion of southern Lebanon--and this invasion will not be its last act of aggression.

Since As-Sadat's treasonous initiative it has become apparent that the United States has created a serious factor which is impeding efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This factor is its adoption of the Egyptian ruler's initiative. The U.S. is endeavoring to split Arab ranks by taking Egypt out of the battle of national struggle, isolating it and transforming it into a base owing allegience to Washington, and forcing it to serve Israel's aggressive designs. Since the black initiative of As-Sadat, every development in the region has been in the interest of the Zionist enemy and the imperialist plot aimed at bringing the Arab homeland into its sphere of influence and at imposing surrender on the Arab nation. Thus the U.S. stand has always been on the side of Israel and has always paved the way for the perpetuation of its occupation of Arab territories and for the continuation of its aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arabs.

Therefore, there is nothing new in the attitude expressed by the U.S. president and there will be nothing new in whatever might come from the U.S. administration. It will always support aggression, expansion and occupation.

With all objectivity we say that we are not surprised by this U.S. attitude and we will not be deceived by the U.S. official spokesman's statement that Carter's remarks are not necessarily against the Arabs. We wonder how this can be, when the U.S. administration frankly announces that it is on the side of occupation and on the side of Zionist expansionist projects, especially when this occupation and expansion are at the expense of the Arab territories. In what way are these statements not against us since they give legitimacy to the occupation of our territories and call for continued aggression against our nation? What is more surprising is hearing statements from the Egyptian rulers expressing surprise at the U.S. attitude and regarding it as a new U.S. policy line and a breaking of former promises by the U.S. administration.

As-Sadat's grovelling and capitulationist postures have become clear and been exposed because his friends in Washington and his allies in Israel are no longer concerned about his reputation or about avoiding making him lose face after he has become a spent force on every level. The slaps he is receiving from his friends and allies are the reward of every renegade and traitor. It is a lesson to whoever thinks of deviating from the will of his people and his nation.

Undoubtedly, this black fate of As-Sadat and his renegade regime will motivate the sister Arab states to intensify their struggle against the imperialist-Zionist plot and to restore to Arab solidarity its image of struggle and resistance so as to destroy As-Sadat's initiative and to face the fateful battle with honor and responsibility.

SYRIAN INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON MIDEAST ISSUES

LD171126Y Warsaw PAP in English 1507 GMT 16 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, 16 April, PAP--The Syrian minister of information, Dr Ahmad Iskandar, granted the PAP correspondent in the Middle East, Tadeusz Jackowski, an interview on topical Middle East problems. Dr Iskandar, who is a member of the new Syrian cabinet, has long been holding the post of minister of information and spokesman for President Hafiz al-Asad. Moreover, Dr Iskandar performs responsible function in the ruling Ba'th party.

Responding to the PAP correspondent's questions on the initiatives aimed at holding an Arab summit meeting, Minister Iskandar said that Syria's approach to the problem was clear and unambiguous. Similarly to the other countries which oppose the policy of continuing a dialogue with Israel, Syria is not going to take part in a meeting in which the Egyptian president, Anwar as-Sadat, would participate. The minister added that the Egyptian leader had lost the right to take part in any meeting of all Arab states as a result of the so-called peace initiatives which he had taken together with Israel. Minister Iskandar also stressed that neither leaders of Syria nor those of the allied countries could trust the Egyptian president any longer.

Ahmad Iskandar also said that in present circumstances striving for the convocation of an Arab summit was nothing but helping As-Sadat. Answering the question on the situation in Lebanon, the Syrian minister (?of information stated) that the UN peace-keeping forces and the Arab security corps were acting in Lebanon on the motion of the independent government of that country. Ahmad Iskandar said that the Syrian Government, the PLO and the Lebanese authorities hold the view that the so-called Israeli partial withdrawl is only a political manoeuvre and mask covering Tel Aviv's constant striving for expansion. The goal of Syria and the PLO is the withdrawal of all forces. The question of the future of Lebanon depends on a quick withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces. I can say that now a perfect atmosphere for taking future oriented solutions prevails in relations among Syria, the Lebanese government and the PLO, emphasized Ahmad Iskandar.

Minister Iskandar also said that Syria maintained that the restoration of the internal balance in Lebanon would depend on the process of implementing the agreements which define the status of the Palestinians in that country, which were signed in 1969 and in 1976. The agreements are the only durable foundation on which the process of stabilizing the situation in Lebanon and its security can rest, said Ahmad Iskandar.

LIBYA

PFLP, LIBYAN LEADERS ADDRESS TRIPOLI MAY DAY RALLY

Habash Speech

LD012128Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 May 78 LD

[Speech by George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, at a May Day rally in Tripoli--live; intercepted in progress]

[Excerpts] I reaffirm to you that, while we confront this conspiracy to liquidate us and to slaughter us, we shall always be aware of the fact that the masses of our people in this country and in every Arab country stand behind us, and chant with us that Palestine is Arab and will remain Arab. The protection of the Palestinian revolution against this conspiracy is the responsibility of the nationalist, progressive forces throughout the Arab world.

The cohesiveness of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement with the struggle of our heroic Egyptian people who today stand against the treason of As-Sadat will protect the Palestinian revolution.

All the brigades of the Arab national liberation movement now waging a fierce fight against imperialism are directly or indirectly involved in the protection of the Palestinian revolution against the liquidation plan it is facing in Lebanon.

The rifles now held aloft in Oman and the rifles now confronting reaction in Morocco in the hands of our Saharan revolutionaries, all these Arab rifles, together with the struggle of the Arab masses in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world, are directly or indirectly taking part in facing up to this savage plan worked out by imperialism to strike at the Palestinian revolution. In the name of the Palestinian revolution, I greet all these revolutions and all these vanguard brigades which stand side by side, and which through their cohesiveness constitute the Arab people's progressive front which will mobilize all the energies and potentials of the Arab nation.

These potentials will be capable of liberating Palestine and Oman, of destroying Arab reaction and of fulfilling the objectives of our revolution, the objectives of the 1st of September Revolution, of the Palestinian revolution.

Jallud Speech

LD012306Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1716 GMT 1 May 78 LD

[Speech by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, at a May Day rally in Tripoli--live]

[Excerpts] Brothers: The Arab nation is being exposed to plots from within today, its enemies come from itself and from colonialism, reaction and Zionism. Brothers, the plots are being woven and engineered in order to destroy this nation of the Palestinian revolution. It is ignorant for any Arab to think that the plot against the Palestinian people and the slaughter of the Palestinian revolution will not involve the slaughter of the Arab nation. The slaughter of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause is tantamount to slaughtering the Arab nation materially and morally. [applause]

Brothers, if we consider again the policies of plots to date, beginning with the visit of disgrace and shame, we find that the forces hostile to the movement of our nation--the reactionaries, defeatists, colonialists and Zionists--are cooperating and are closing their ranks every day. But we also find a lax attitude; we find indifference; we find shedding of responsibility. It is not possible, brothers, to separate the chapters of the plots from one another. All the chapters of the plot which is being hatched--whether in the Arabian Peninsula, Oman, Dhofar, in North Africa in the Sahara, or in Lebanon--are but the face of one plot which seeks to destroy this nation of the Palestinian revolution.

A short while ago, brothers, the Libyan people, the Arab nation and the world heard two voices which are closely linked with the Palestinian cause and which positively affect this cause in the interest of the Arab masses. You heard the Palestinian voice, owner of the Palestinian cause [applause] in the person of Dr George Habash; you also heard the [word indistinct] of the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon, the natural ally of the Palestinian revolution in all the Arab homeland; you heard the representative of the Lebanese national movement Dr Abdullah Sa'adah [applause] expressing the opinion of the Lebanese man in the street, the Lebanese national street. Is there any legitimacy left for any person who speaks in the name of legitimacy in Lebanon or outside Lebanon? Legitimacy to the Palestinian cause is the opinion of the legitimate owners of the Palestinian cause. Therefore, no one can say that he speaks in the name of Palestine--to (?establish) a state, a quarter of a state or self-rule. The only Arab who has true legitimacy is the one who adheres to the true Palestinian stand. This is the only Arab who has Palestinian legitimacy.

Legitimacy belongs only to those Arabs who stick to the genuine Palestinian position [applause]. They talk about self-rule! Yesterday we learned that there had been a change of views; that the United States had changed its position; that the initiative had yielded results, just as Carter said. He said: Every solution is possible except for a Palestinian state. This is nonsense! They talk about self-rule! Self-rule for the owners of the land, for the Palestinians, for the Palestinian people, for Palestine; whereas the outsider Jews, Zionist gangs, highway bandits, a colonialist manifestation just like Zimbabwe --these people would govern the Palestinians, the owners of the land, of the historic right! They are willing to grant us self-rule! What a farce! [words indistinct]

Dear brothers: Regrettably, one sometimes wishes he was not alive or that he was out demonstrating in the streets, destroying, while this farce is being played on stage. The image of the Arabs has become an image of shame and disgrace. The latest event was the Zionist assault against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution. Why did this happen? Because Israel is dictating its conditions; because of the role of colonialism and Arab reaction. Arab reaction is the biggest criminal with regard to the Arab masses, because it confers legitimacy on Zionism and colonialism.

After they have accomplished their mission and liquidated the Palestinian revolution and the armed struggle, they will go back on their promises about self-rule, limited withdrawal, etc. The treacherous Zionist, savage, indiscriminate assault against the Palestinian revolution and Lebanon has a clear objective: to eliminate the Palestinian revolution: either to destroy it in 24 or 48 hours as they said, or, when this has failed, to put the Palestinian revolution between two traps: between the United Nations international forces in Lebanon--the so-called UNIFIL, which is no less than an aspect and an act of the conspiracy --and the so-called legitimate authorities in Lebanon. Is there legitimacy in Lebanon now? Neither the Lebanese president nor the representatives of the national assembly embody legitimacy. Legitimacy in Lebanon is represented solely by the Lebanese masses. This is what Lebanon's voice says.

When Israel failed to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and the armed struggle, people began talking about so-called legitimacy in Lebanon. Presently, roles are being assigned to Arabs; colonialism and Zionism have assigned roles to all hirelings in their service.

Today the isolationist forces and reaction in Lebanon are calling, in the name of legitimacy, for disarming Palestinians. But they believe that the treacherous Israeli aggression and the circumstances in the Arab world now, and the UNIFIL constitute favorable conditions for the achievement, peacefully and by invoking legitimacy, of what Israel failed to achieve by force.

Under no circumstances can we in the Jamahiriyah accept the disarmament of the Palestinian resistance. [applause] We respect the sovereignty of Lebanon and its people, but from a pan-Arab, constitutional and even legal point of view, the Palestinian resistance must be kept out of any legislation concerning the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon. This legislation will concern the Lebanese only, whether nationalists or isolationists. The Palestinian resistance, however, is not party to the domestic conflict in Lebanon. The Palestinian resistance was left with no alternative but to side with the nationalists, because striking the Lebanese nationalist movement was primarily meant to harm it.

The act of farce now being played, aimed at disarming the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon, is an act of treason. It was awful to see tanks, aircraft and warships hit refugee camps and positions of the fighters of the Lebanese nationalist movement and Palestinians and invade southern Lebanon. Arab radios, both progressive and reactionary, embarked on a wave of reports of regret, denouncements which perhaps were false, telegrams of condemnation, condemnation communiques and so forth. The Palestinians were then fighting alone.

Natural and geographic conditions then prevented many Arabs, whether on the official or popular levels, from playing a role alongside the Palestinians; but things will be different with regard to the fresh attempt by the Lebanese authorities and the so-called Lebanese legitimacy to achieve what Zionism and the treacherous Zionist assault failed to achieve in southern Lebanon. This is why we warn: The Palestinians will have to fight the so-called legitimate authorities just as they fought the Zionists when they invaded southern Lebanon; we shall be behind the Palestinians in this case. [applause] As far as the Palestinians and the Palestinian resistance are concerned, the red line is the rifle! [applause] Nobody will be able to disarm the Palestinians. What will the Palestinians be left with if they are disarmed? One cannot remain silent before this question. And here, we wholeheartedly urge particularly those who, given their geographic position, can prevent such a catastrophe, to bear their responsibility. We shall mobilize and join hands with them in order to save what can be saved, and preserve the Palestinian rifle, because as long as the Palestinians hold the rifle, there is no fear over Palestine, but if the Palestinian hand loses the rifle, and if the Arabs abandon vigilance and indulge in peace dreams and illusions, it will be a calamity, and Palestine is finished.

The second stage of the plan, after disarming the Palestinians--and this will not happen--is to settle the Palestinians in the Arab world. This means that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians will have to leave Lebanon. This is the second phase of the plot. Therefore, we should not take this issue lightly. We should (?destroy) this plan which is being implemented from within us. This requires that the Lebanese patriotic movement and the Palestinian resistance be more cohesive; they should be more united and more determined. We support them; the entire Arab masses support them. [applause]

If there used to be some justifications in the past--if the Arabs found some justifications when the Zionists attacked Lebanon and invaded the camps to silence the gun, sweep away the fighters and liquidate the Palestinian revolution--the Arabs would not now find any justification for this.

Brothers, there are attempts to cast doubt on the steadfastness and resistance front. There is a plan to cast doubt and to tempt--there are attempts to do so. We hear that the Zionist, U.S. and Western, as well as reactionary intelligence services, have started a campaign to cast doubt on the steadfastness and resistance front. We have heard in the news that Algeria was making secret contacts with Morocco, and that Libya was making secret contacts with Egypt, and that Syria--I do not recall what they have said about Syria. All these are part of a plan to cast doubt and create differences within the front. I would like to say that the steadfastness and resisbance front, despite the fact that it has done nothing concrete, and has not taken the offensive and embarked on the action required of it, has played an historic part. It has expressed the will of rejection. It has said no to the visit, no to surrender; yes to steadfastness, yes to liberation. This is an historic stand. [applause] The steadfastness states and their masses should be aware of the conspiracy to cast doubt and should adhere to and work for the development of the front so that it can shoulder its pan-Arab and historic responsibilities.

Today we hear about Arab solidarity and the Arab solidarity committee. It is beginning with Syria. Why? Because they want to say to Syria that the steadfastness and resistance front (?has not performed its role). There are pressures and attempts by the reactionary forces to tempt Syria into joining the Arab solidarity committee. But Syria will not do so. Syria has expressed its rejection. Jerusalem is nearer to Damascus than to Cairo. Syria has expressed its rejection and this is sufficient. However, it is possible to develop the steadfastness and resistance front so that it can carry out its responsibilities, resist the ferocious Zionist-imperialist-reactionary attack and mobilize the Arab masses along the path leading to liberation. This is not impossible. This is because the front embraces the forces worthy of achieving liberation. Saudi Arabia has no [words indistinct] only Egypt; if Egypt leaves the battle then the only states that remain on the battlefield are those which are capable of waging the battle and have the economic, human and military means to do so--these are the states of the steadfastness and resistance front and Iraq.

Iraq is practically in the front. There may be some differences; these concern the development of the front. Iraq works for the development of the front. Therefore, there are Syria, Iraq, the Jamahiriyah, Algeria, the PDRY and the owners of the issue--the Palestinians--the PLO. This is in fact the force after Egypt's departure from the battlefield. If Egypt returns to the fold and reshoulders its historic pan-Arab role, well and good, but if we leave Egypt out, then the available force is the countries I named--the countries of the steadfastness and resistance front and Iraq.

Some people have money, but they cannot buy aircraft with this money. You have heard what the United States said: Yes, the United States might sell aircraft to Saudi Arabia, but on the condition that they be stationed along the borders with the PDRY and Iraq. Consequently, the steadfastness front and peoples must pay attention to this question. There is a campaign to cast doubt. It is alleged that Libya is having secret contacts with Egypt and so forth. Even the speech of Colonel Qadhdhafi on evacuation day has been interpreted and manipulated by the media. True, for us Libyans, it is in our interest to have normal relations with Egypt. But the interest of the pan-Arab question is supreme as far as the Libyans are concerned. [applause]

The steadfastness front will improve and mobilize its potential, politically, economically and militarily on the road to a total liberation war throughout the Arab world, from the Euphrates River to the Atlantic Ocean. [applause] The steadfastness front said no to bargaining, no to self-rule, no to recognizing Zionism.

The steadfastness front has played its role, perhaps not as it should have, but it will be able to improve its capabilities. The fact that there is now a denigration campaign against the steadfastness front means that the latter does constitute a danger.

The steadfastness front believes in an inter-Arab solidarity for liberation; it says no to a solidarity that would harm it. This is clear. There are attempts to persuade Syria to join a so-called inter-Arab solidarity camp; the rejection front would thus lose Syria and the Palestinian resistance, which from all points of view constitute the core of the rejection front. This is rather important. But we still regard Syria as a rejection front member state; we regard it as still resisting. We must improve our positions, mobilize our potentials and learn a lesson from the Zionist assault against southern Lebanon. We must support Syria's resistance to wooing attempts and pressure.

It is imperative that we in the steadfastness and resistance front work with Iraq for the development of the attitudes of the front and for the mobilization of our economic and military and political capabilities in order to foil the plan and prepare ourselves for the comprehensive liberation. [applause]

Having heard the voice of the owners of the issue, through Dr George Habash, and the voice of the Palestinian revolution's natural allies, through the representative of the national movement of Lebanon Dr Abdullah Sa'adah, we would like to state here that this is our view--the view of the Jamahiriyah is identical with the view of Dr George Habash and also identical with the view of Dr Abdullah Sa'adah. [applause] Our attitude is the same as theirs.

Therefore, we reject any attempt to harm the Palestinain revolution; we shall resist any attempt to harm the Palestinian gun. We reject any such attempt; we resist any such attempt. We reject and resist any attempt to harm the Palestinian question and prevent the Palestinian peoples and the Arab masses from trying to liberate their land from the river to the sea. [applause] We reject any solution that calls for self-rule; we reject any quarter of half solutions. We are ashamed even to talk about such solutions. It is shameful to talk about such solutions. We accept only one thing--to cling to our gun and be more determined and prepare the Arab masses, by liberating them from within, to achieve liberation from the river to the sea. [applause]

At the front's level, it is imperative that we all adhere to the steadfastness and resistance front and resist all temptations, pressures, conspiracies and campaigns to cast doubt on each other; we should work for more dialog with the other member, the member we consider to be in the front from the practical point of view, but who theoretically is not--with Iraq, so that Iraq joins the front. We should work and mobilize ourselves to nip the conspiracy in the bud. We should prepare for the mobilization of our masses and capabilities. We have so much capability that enables the front and Iraq to triumph in the battle in favor of the Arab masses and people.

We lack nothing except a political line and a decision. We possess thousands of tanks and thousands of planes; we possess material resources and manpower. [applause]

We lack nothing except a strategic line and a political line that would take into account these resources and lay down plans which would insure the achievement of victory and the wresting of the initiative. [applause]

By this evaluation of the front of steadfastness, we shall perform our role so that the front will resist these attempts and develop the front of steadfastness so that it will shoulder its liberation responsibilities.

Moreover, we are allied with the Palestinian revolution and we embrace every Palestinian who believes in clinging to the rifle. We are in alliance with the Palestinian revolution and with the Lebanese nationalist movement. [applause] We do not want to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs, but this operation it above interference and is above sensitivities. When the issue concerns the Palestinian rifle, we cannot remain idle, nor can we be courteous, nor can we stand under the illusion of legitimacy and [word indistinct] and interference in Lebanon. [applause]

We support the regulation of relations, but we are against the disarmament of the resistance. We do not want to hear: We are not with the Palestinians because they are interfering in the affairs of Lebanon and are interfering with the question of regulating relations between the Palestinians and the Lebanese, between the Palestinian revolution and the lawful Lebanese authority. But regarding the question of regulating such relations, we reject the disarming of the Palestinian revolution.

Brethren, naturally the plots are not just in the Arab homeland; plots are nowadays the active characteristic of reaction and colonialism. The Arab region and Africa have an abundant share of this reactionary-imperialist-Zionist onslaught. Plots and interventions: French intervention in Mauritania, French intervention in the Sahara, the bombing of the Saharan people with napalm and incendiaries--an act that harmed the dignity of all [word indistinct]. A return of French intervention in the Sahara and Mauritania as well as in Chad is a new return to the use of force.

Had it not been for the clever way in which De Gaulle managed to take France out of the quagmire of Vietnam, France would not have survived. But it seems that France is lost once again in the sand and jungles of Africa. Following a war that went on for more than 18 years, the Chadian National Liberation Front [FROLINAT] was established before the revolution. For 18 years FROLINAT has been fighting. This is revolution; this is a popular movement; it has deep and popular roots. But since the outbreak of the Libyan revolution, we have been trying--we tried with President Tombalbaye--to find a solution. When President Malloum came to Libya we tried to find a solution. In actual fact, recently all the parties bordering Chad--the Jamahiriyah, Sudan, and Niger--responded and shouldered their responsibilities out of their belief in neighborliness and brotherhood in order to save the people of Chad from this blind alley and to help the Chadian brothers solve their problems by establishing real peace. We actually made extraordinary efforts in this connection.

Brothers, I would like to tell you that in the past any person who was asked to find a solution for this problem found himself lost, but the September revolution does not recognize impossibilities. [applause] The brother colonel made extraordinary efforts to solve this question.

He spent a great deal of time on it. This is because the question is so complicated and plagued with lack of confidence and interference by other parties, as well as with the deep-rooted enmity that exists. But the brother colonel gave it all his time. It used to be thought (?that solution was a kind of treason).

But due to the cooperation of the parties concerned--and here we would like to thank the Republic of the Sudan, particularly brother Abu al-Qasim [applause]; the Republic of Niger and particularly President Seyni Kountche [applause]; and naturally President Malloum [applause]--we managed to find a solution. President Malloum adopted a correct path. He came here and said you are my neighbors and brothers and should help me solve this problem. When he came to visit us we obliged him. This is due to our Arab upbringing and ethics. We used all our weight to help him. We Arabs stand to lose everything if we abandon our code of conduct and ethics. This man who came seeking our help could have gone elsewhere. We were optimistic. The brother colonel gave the issue all his efforts and time in order to find a solution for a difficult problem.

But hostile circles in Africa and colonialist hostile forces outside Africa began to plot against the agreement. This is why when we came to the second agreement, we discovered that the campaign to cast doubt conducted by the hostile forces had proved effective both among the FROLINAT and the Chadian Government. However, we managed once again to foil the plots of colonialist and anti-African forces, and succeeded [words indistinct]. But conspiracies did not stop. There has been French intervention: the dispatching of more French toops, Jaquar jet fighters and paratroops of the French forces. The objective was to undermine the agreement on reconciliation in Chad.

If the aim was not to sabotage the agreement, why send more troops to Chad, more aircraft? Recently, the military committee has taken up positions, the cease-fire was becoming effective, and the monitoring positions began their activity.

But the presence of the French forces, the air activity and the sending of more forces and Jaguar aircraft to Chad are complicating and undermining the situation. We warn and we hold the French Government responsible if this agreement fails. If it fails the French Government will bear the responsibility. The right thing to do after the signing of the agreement was to work for containing the French presence, not to send more fighter aircraft and more forces. Therefore, if the agreement fails, we warn and we hold the French Government responsible. We also advise President Malloum, who came to us asking us to assist him in resolving this issue: We placed our hand with his hand together with the brothers in Sudan and Niger and the Chad revolutionaries; we inform him of attempts to undermine the agreement. We believe that there are groups inside Chad, in addition to groups outside Chad led by France, who want to undermine this agreement. Why? Because they want to portray us as incapable of solving the problems. This is because if there were an African solution and if the Africans succeeded in resolving their problem in Chad, it would encourage the Africans to resolve other problems in Eritrea or anywhere else. They do not want us to have self-confidence; therefore, they do not want us to implement this agreement.

The second point: We warn that if there are sides which are not sincere in implementing the agreement; if the agreement was meant to be an unethical tactical operation for the purpose of regaining strength and regrouping and for asking for more French forces and also for massing potentials in order to continue the war, we warn against any attempt to even think about this method, because it would mean that they would [word indistinct] have destroyed an historic opportunity to give the people of Chad the chance to establish real peace and put a final end to a war which has lasted for more than 15 years, the chance to channel the potentials of the people of Chad in the interest of building new Chad. This is an important point. [sentence indistinct] The Jamahiryah, Sudan and Niger are helping the parties. If the Chad Liberation Front, the Chad Government and President Malloum personally want to implement the agreement, we are with them to the end; we shall be on the side of every party which wants to establish true peace. We do not want this historic opportunity to be wasted.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech

LD021118 [Editorial Report LD] Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic at 1840 GMT on 1 May carries a live relay of a speech by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, general secretary of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, to a May Day rally in Tripoli. Al-Qadhdhafi welcomes Manual Pinto da Costa, president of Sao Tome and Principe, and pays high tribute to the anticolonialist struggle of that country.

Referring to May Day, Al-Qadhdhafi stresses that the workers will really have something to celebrate when they cease being wage earners and become true partners. Higher wages are not enough; partnership is the target. Al-Qadhdhafi is prevented from continuing his speech for 13 minutes while the crowd shouts slogans. When he resumes his speech, he exhorts the workers to continue their march until they receive their share in production and "until you completely take over the management of the establishments in which you are working." He says that all this can be achieved by "popular revolution," not by laws and regulations which can be changed whenever there is a change in administration. He says that workers must make their own freedom, but warns that a popular revolution must be very well organized and must be careful.

Addressing Libyan workers, Al-Qadhdhafi says it was not God but the exploiting community which made them poor and backward, adding: "Starting today, prepare yourselves for the complete takeover of management in all establishments in the Jamahiriyah; prepare yourselves for the takeover of production; tread wages underfoot."

Al-Qadhdhafi tells Libyan workers that all workers in the Arab world will follow their example, as will workers all over the world. May Day, he states, will be meaningless as long as workers continue to be hired persons: "Workers in the Jamahiriyah must prepare themselves in an organized and thoughtful way so that when the march and the takeover are complete, production will increase and self-sufficiency be achieved." He says that only then can we silence those who spread tendentious rumors and propaganda about the workers.

Al-Qadhdhafi tells the workers that it is his job and that of his associates to assist the masses in achieving liberation and a happy life. Al-Qadhdhafi's speech ends at 1938 GMT.

JALLUD RECEIVES PFLP'S GEORGE HABASH

LD022134Y Tripoli JANA in English 1904 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 2, JANA--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, today received Dr George Habash, the secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The meeting was attended by Mr Salah Salah and Taisser Quba, members of the PFLP, and a representative of the Arab liaison bureau at the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

Dr George Habash was reported by the JANA correspondent to have said "we discussed with Staff Major Jallud all the issues related to the Palestinian [remainder of item indistinct].

SUDAN

NUMAYRI DISCUSSES SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA

JN011300Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 1 May--The following is the text of the interview granted by President Ja'far Numayri to the UAE news agency on various Arab and African issues.

First question: Your excellency, to what extent are you optimistic regarding the success of your work to solve current inter-Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity?

Answer: My optimism regarding the success of the [Arab solidarity] committee is unlimited, because the aim of the committee, namely, the achievement of Arab solidarity, is a vital necessity for the Arab nation at this stage and at every stage. We must restore the glories of this nation. These glories could not have been achieved without Arab cohesion. Setbacks in Arab history and in the contemporary Arab world would not have occurred had there been Arab cohesion and solidarity.

The Arab nation as a whole is threatened with aggression and foreign expansion and also with settlements of foreigners inside its territories. Does this not give us an urgent incentive to forge Arab cohesion and solidarity to face the common danger? The danger has passed the stage of threats and is present now. In 1967 the Arab territories were occupied by Israel and only yesterday southern Lebanon was occupied. The danger is getting closer; it is not standing still. The Arab nation will not be able to face this danger, either through peaceful means or through war, unless there is cohesion among its ranks and unless its stand is unified. These facts strengthen my conviction in the inevitability of Arab solidarity. These facts are also the basis of my optimism regarding the achievement of this solidarity, despite the disputes and differences rife in the Arab homeland.

Second question: What plan of action has the Arab solidarity committee adopted? Do you personally plan to hold meetings with some Arab leaders to convince them of the need to overcome their differences at this delicate stage in Arab history?

Answer: We in the committee agreed to conduct our business in secrecy and not to let ourselves be sources of news for the media. We depend on the results of our work to indicate our achievements on both the political and information levels.

Third question: What are the bases on which you selected the Arab solidarity committee?

Answer: With the exception of the disputing Arab countries, which the committee is striving to bring together, the committee membership is open to all the Arab countries without exception. The committee is representative of the confrontation states, as Jordan is a member, and the participating states--I do not like to call them supporting states because Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait have participated and are participating in all the Arab battles and have played an effective role in and made a great contribution to achieving every Arab victory. This membership is in addition to the Arab League, represented by its secretary general. The committee is in fact working within the framework of the Arab League and was formed at an Arab League [word indistinct] meeting.

Fourth question: What will be the role of the states you have chosen in the committee's work? Do you foresee a role for every state?

Answer: Each member of the committee has weight and together they form a unified team to achieve a single aim, namely, Arab solidarity. The committee is a partner in all Arab disputes. It is not a mediator to solve the differences but a partner to remove the obstacles in the way of joint Arab action in the interest of a unified Arab cause.

Fifth question: What role can the gulf states possibly play in removing the differences in views among the various Arab states, and what is your view about the possible role of the UAE in this regard?

Answer: I have already said that the committee and all its members are working as a partner with the Arab nation to achieve the Arab nation's national aims. Regarding your question on the role of the gulf states and the UAE in particular, I can say that these states are qualified to help create an atmosphere conducive to the utilization of their contributions and support in achieving the national aims. This is because of the continuous efforts of these states in support of the Arab struggle. The gulf states and Saudi Arabia not only have a strong influence on the Arab level, but also an economic and political influence on international issues. This influence has been and still is being utilized in the service of the Arab cause. Therefore, their contribution to the achievements of the committee is effective and great.

Sixth question: What do you consider to be the proper formula to close Arab ranks in light of the current causes of dispute, namely, the call of the initiative on the one hand, and the call of steadfastness and confrontation on the other?

Answer: We are not seeking a formula to close Arab ranks because this formula already exists. The Arabs have unanimously approved it and it is represented by the Algiers and Rabat summit resolutions. What we seek now is just a commitment to and the implementation of these resolutions.

Seventh question: It has been said that the proposed Arab summit conference will be held in Khartoum. What are your views on this issue and what date do you suggest for the conference?

Answer: Naturally, I welcome holding the conference in Khartoum. Khartoum is the city in which Arab solidarity was achieved when it was most needed just after the setback of June 1967. In any case, what is important is not where the summit is held--because all the Arab capitals are capitals of the Arab nation--but the date of the conference. This date must be very soon so as to control the international and regional changes which are very serious and which threaten the Arab nation. There is no way to face these threats except with a unified Arab stand.

Eighth question: Mr President, how do you explain your rapprochement with the Ethiopian regime at a time when you are confronting the Soviet presence in the region? What are the repercussions of this rapprochement on your relations with Somalia and on your stand toward the Eritrean revolution?

Answer: There has not been an estrangement between us and Ethiopia that would necessitate a rapprochement. Sudan has its views and is still committed to them. These views concern the need to purge from the region foreign interference which will involve the countries in the region in an international power struggle. Our ties with Ethiopia are those of (?joint interests) which we are careful to maintain.

Within this framework, we informed the Ethiopians of our readiness to end the bloody conflicts in Ogaden as well as in Eritrea on the basis of preserving the interests of all sides.

This offer still holds and does not contradict our expressed attitude that the foreign presence in the region should be removed together with all its threats and dangers to all of us.

Ninth question: After the resumption of normal relations between Sudan and Libya, there were reports that you were mediating to settle differences between Egypt and Libya. Is this correct and what are the results of your mediation?

Answer: Perhaps my chairmanship of the Arab solidarity committee answers your question. We are on the side of integrated and comprehensive Arab solidarity. This requires pooling my efforts and those of Sudan with those of all the Arab brothers to solve inter-Arab and bilateral differences and to end Arab disputes.

Tenth question: What is the nature of the relations between the UAE and Sudan and what developments have occurred in these relations?

Answer: Sudan's relations with the UAE are those of cordiality and love. They are proceeding and developing in every field. The coordination between the two countries is complete and continuing in all fields. On this occasion, I convey through you may greetings and appreciation to brother Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan. In my name and on behalf of the Sudanese people, I express our appreciation for his support and backing for the development projects in our country.

NUMAYRI CALLS FOR END TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

LD012126Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 1 May 78 LD/EA

[Speech by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri at the national theater in Omdurman--live]

[Excerpt] Brothers: We support the slogan Africa for the Africans and fight valiantly for it. We are against the imposition of ideology with the force of arms.

Brothers, we are conscious that our energies and capabilities do not afford us the opportunity of fighting the big powers. But this does not mean we should surrender to them or overlook their moves inside the African Continent, however much they take cover under slogans and claim to struggle for liberation and progress. The road to liberation has never been the road of coercion. The wars of progress have never been wars of tyranny and aggression.

Sudan realizes that the Soviet Union is a great world power. [word indistinct] or its influence cannot be ignored or belittled. But Sudan has always expected the Soviet Union to play its role and utilize its position for the achievement of peace, security and stability in Africa and everywhere.

We are not [word indistinct] to fight big or small powers in this world, but because of our position inside the African Continent we realize that overlooking distant or near threats cannot lead to peace and stability as far as we are concerned. The African will, and the African will alone, is capable of determining its fate without interference from a foreigner, no matter what his intentions and no matter what justifications he claims and slogans he shouts.

Recently we heard welcome statements from President Fidel Castro, who has more than 15,000 soldiers in Ethiopia and in Eritrea in particular. He declared in those statements that Cuba will not be a party to the dispute between the Ethiopian Government and the Eritrean revolution. If what we heard can be confirmed, this will undoubtedly achieve the right atmosphere for a dialog between the brother Ethiopians and Eritreans.

We hope the dialog will take the place of the long struggle witnessed by this part of the world. I hope, we all hope, to hear soon in the coming days that the Cuban forces supported by Soviet technicians have been withdrawn from Eritrea and that the Ethiopians have realized that military assistance will not solve the problem for them, and that they are returning to the dialog in which we have taken the initiative and will do so again. We will try and try again until we achieve stability in this area.

TUNISIA

TUNISIAN PAPER REACTS TO CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON MIDEAST

LD021648Y Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Text] Tunisian papers today gave prominence to President Carter's recent statements on the Middle East and subsequent Arab reactions denouncing them. In an editorial under the title "The Hesitant American Policy," the paper AS-SABAH wrote: American policy has been renowned for its hesitant and wavering character since President Carter took over. Touching upon the Arab position on Carter's declarations, the paper pointed out that the Arabs who favor a peaceful solution and trust the United States are now frightened, whereas those Arabs hostile to any peaceful settlement and usually skeptical about U.S. moves find in the recent American attitude a justification for their beliefs that the American administration is incapable of finding or reluctant to insure a just, reasonable settlement for the Middle East problem.

AS-SABAH concluded by saying: Whatever the fear and skepticism aroused by the American policy, the United States no longer inspires much confidence, given these numerous changes of attitude unworthy of a superpower which is supposed to build its policy on clarity and courage.

BEGIN OPTIMISTIC AFTER TALKS WITH CARTER

TA021238Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 May 78 pp 2, 7 TA

[By Nissim Qivviti]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin belives that there might soon be a breakthrough in the political process which will bring about a resumption of negotiations with Egypt and will advance a peace settlement. In a conversation with Israeli correspondents in the Israel air force Boeing 707 that flew him from Washington to Los Angeles, Begin showed a great deal of optimism from his meeting with President Carter and his talk with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

The prime minister said that all paths now being examined to resume the negotiations will be based on his original plan for self-rule in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

He hinted that he believes that the Americans no longer demand that a referendum be conducted among the residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at the end of a 5-year interim period of self-rule.

"No one is mentioning a referendum any more," the prime minister said. "We are looking for other paths."

The U.S. and Egyptian demand that a referendum be held was one of the stumbling blocks that brought about the crisis in relations in the wake of the prime minister's last visit to Washington.

The prime minister told the correspondents, the difference between the atmosphere of the last visit and that of this visit "is like night and day." He repeated that in March the atmosphere was "very difficult" while now "there has been a significant improvement."

Begin declared: "I believe that there is a chance for a breakthrough soon. It is impossible to know with any certainty but I am optimistic and it was certainly worthwhile to come here...From experience I know that atmosphere plays a part--perhaps not decisive, but very important."

He outlined recent political achievements as follows:

--The PLO is no longer an element.

--An independent Palestinian state has been put out of the question.

--There is agreement about an Israeli military presence in Judaea and Samaria.

--The idea of a referendum has been removed from the agenda.

"These are very important achievements," the prime minister said. When asked to what he attributed the change in the U.S. attitude toward Israel Begin answered, "to our firm stand and desire to get things moving."

Begin added: "In my opinion, the Vance-Dayan talks also contributed a lot."

It is believed in the prime minister's entourage that the change was brought about by President Carter himself and that the change points to "the end of the Brzezinski period,"--the period of pressure on Israel aimed at breaking its opposition to concessions that would endanger its security.

COMMENTATOR ADVISES CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ON U.S. ATTITUDE

TA021426Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 May 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[Erol Guiney commentary]

[Text] Experience has taught us to have certain reservations every time Prime Minister Begin says there is agreement between him and President Carter. This is not because the prime minister is sometimes inclined toward being overly optimistic but because the Carter administration demonstrates a tendency toward changing its positions under pressure. In fact, pressure is already being applied on Washington by the Arabs and further pressure can be expected.

Despite this, in recent weeks, and even in the past few days, a change for the better in the U.S. position can be felt. This was manifest in Carter's remarks to the SUNDAY TIMES and also at the reception that he held for Israel's 30th anniversary.

It is quite possible that the President and his advisers, including Brzezinski, have understood that they can no longer continue applying pressure on Israel without this boomeranging. It appears that they have reached the conclusion that these methods have achieved everything that they can achieve.

It is also possible that they have reached the conclusion that the Begin government's policy has shown flexibility on certain issues and that at this stage they would do well to desist from stressing the disputes between Israel and the United States while stressing what is common to the new Begin and Carter governments.

There might also be some latent thinking behind this: Carter might think that a change in policy might facilitate the granting of congressional approval for the deal involving the sale of planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia--something to which Carter attributes major importance.

However, whatever the reservations, Israel can only be pleased when there is a greater degree of coordination between Jerusalem and Washington for this is a precondition for any progress in the Middle East and a precondition for Israel's security.

On the other hand, we must understand that this new wind blowing from the United States is paralleling what appears to be a hardening in As-Sadat's position. This hardening is manifest in Cairo's strong reaction to Carter's recent remarks. It is unnecessary to stress that without Egypt there can be no progress in the Middle East. There is certainty that the new atmosphere between Begin and Carter will be permanent.

Therefore, with all our satisfaction with the change in the U.S. position as manifest in Begin's remarks in Los Angeles we must keep our cool and follow developments, with optimism but with care.

JERUSALEM PLEASED WITH RECENT CARTER REMARKS

TA021241Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Yesterday, political circles expressed a great deal of satisfaction with U.S. President Jimmy Carter's remarks in an interview that he gave in which he said that the Israeli peace plan can serve as a basis for a political settlement in the West Bank, and that he does not believe that a Palestinian state should be established in the West Bank. The circles said that this is a positive and important development, among other reasons, because of its timing--on the eve of Carter's meeting with Prime Minister Begin.

Jerusalem is now waiting for the results of the prime minister's talks in Washington.

It has been learned that in recent weeks two camps have been forming within the government and the results of the prime minister's talks will influence their future moves. One camp, comprising senior cabinet ministers, supports nurturing the line adopted with As-Sadat's initiative for direct talks with Egypt. This camp is led by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The second camp calls for the inclusion of the United States as an active mediator in the contacts between Israel and Egypt on the assumption that a coordination of positions with the United States is of utmost importance to Israel. This camp is led by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Up to now, no direct confrontation has taken place within the government between the two camps, however, such a confrontation might develop if the prime minister decides to adopt Dayan's approach completely, which would mean giving up direct contact with Egypt.

Political circles outside the Foreign Ministry are doubtful about the clarifications achieved with the United States in the Dayan talks. These circles point out that only after Begin's talks will it be possible to tell if a better understanding between Israel and the United States has been achieved about future political moves.

DAYAN BRIEFS KNESSET COMMITTEE ON U.S. TALKS

TA030708Y Jerusalem POST in English 3 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday that American leaders had declared themselves more than willing to study his proposal that Israel and Egypt discuss the substance of their negotiations rather than the principles intended to guide them, because this offers a prospect of resuming the deadlocked dialogue between the two countries.

Briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday, Dayan said he could not go into the details of his proposals and he could not indicate what decisions the cabinet would have to consider.

Both Dayan and Premier Begin have said in the past two days that the United States had aired certain proposals which the Israel Cabinet would have to take up.

Dayan told the committee members that some of their questions would have to hang fire till Begin got back home.

So far Dayan has only reported on his talks in Washington to a number of senior cabinet ministers.

Dayan said the trouble with the previous system of discussing a "declaration of principles" was that the principles shackled the parties instead of easing their deliberations. By discussing substance rather then principles, he said, it would be possible to break up all the issues into component parts. If Israel and Egypt could agree on some of the components of each major issue, he said, they would both feel they were recording progress. Their very deliberations would also create momentum, he said.

If they could discuss the nature of an IDF presence in Judaea and Samaria, he said, they could easily postpone the most controversial question of the duration of that presence till later.

Dayan said that he and Begin alike had encountered a more friendly atmosphere this time. This was partly because the Americans were casting about for ways of ending the stalemate and partly because of the 30th anniversary mood--at which time the Americans seek to stress what they have in common with Israel rather than what divides the two countries.

U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, who returned yesterday from Washington where he stayed during the Dayan and Begin talks, said at Ben-Gurion Airport that he expected more talks on breaking the deadlock in the Israel-Egypt negotiations "in the not too distant future."

Lewis said: "This was a very good visit and the atmosphere at the end of it certainly was more positive than at the end of the premier's visit in Marc' "

He said: "Both with Foreign Minister Dayan and with the prime minister, there were some very detailed and I think very useful examinations of some of the key issues. The atmosphere was very businesslike, friendly, informal and very constructive.

"I would think there would be more talks in the not too distant future some time. I am pleased that the negotiating process is going on, and that we are involved in some very serious exchanges with both the Israelis and the Egyptians at this point," Lewis said.

ISRAEL PREPARED TO DISCUSS WEST BANK WITH EGYPT

TA021416Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] The willingness expressed by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in his talks in Washington to discuss the future of the West Bank with Egypt will depend on the ability of Egypt to commit itself that the proposals made, and agreements reached about the West Bank will be binding.

It has been learned that the background to the idea of conducting substantive negotiations with Egypt on matters outside its direct control arose in view of the refusal of the other neighboring countries to talks with Israel, on the one hand, and in the wake of Egypt's demand to achieve agreement in principle about the other front as a condition for an agreement between Egypt and Israel, on the other.

Yesterday, in answer to a question, an informed source told our correspondent that if Egypt wants to discuss a Golan settlement with Israel, Israel will also be prepared to discuss this with Egypt on the condition that Egypt can commit itself that the agreement reached between the two countries will be binding on Syria and implemented by it. The source also stated that from Israel's point of view there is a willingness for a separate agreement with Egypt, however, As-Sadat does not desire this.

The source also said that Dayan did not raise the idea of negotiating with Egypt on the future of the West Bank on his own. In answer to a question, he added that Dayan has a formula for a formal framework in which to conduct negotiations with Egypt. The source did not elaborate. It appears that the framework of deliberations proposed by Dayan will include the United States in accord with Dayan's view that the United States should play a central role in the negotiating process.

DAYAN'S EFFORTS MIGHT FORCE DECISION ON WEST BANK

TA021400Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 2 May 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's position on negotiations with Egypt as presented to the U.S. administration last week might force the government into making decisions soon about the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and about the Palestinians. This is the assessment of political circles.

Mr Dayan is inclined toward defining the issues under dispute between Jerusalem and Washington and focusing on the issues concerning the future of Judaea, Samaria, Gaza and the position of the Palestinians without souring relations between the two countries because of a dispute over the declaration of principles.

Therefore, the administration might be asked for--after the prime minister's return from the United States--substantive decisions and for its position on the future of the West Bank and the Palestinians. The Egyptians have made it clear that decisions on these issues must come before deliberations on the settlements in Sinai or on the bilateral relations between Cairo and Jerusalem.

Today Dayan will give a detailed report on his talks in Washington to a group of ministers. The cabinet heard an initial review of his talks at its meeting the day before yesterday from acting Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin. The ministers were allowed to study a written report on the talks sent by Mr Dayan from Washington.

SETTLEMENT DIVISION REFUSES TO PAY BILL FOR SETTLEMENTS

TA022121Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 May 78 TA

[Text] The Zionist organization comptroller has been asked to investigate the financing of six sites in the center of Sinai erected about 3 months ago. The [Jewish Agency] Settlement Division was requested to pay the expenses of the company which erected the sites on the behest of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Settlement Division, however, is not ready to pay approximately 1 million pounds which, in its view, were expended contrary to accepted procedure. More details are supplied by our correspondent for settlement affairs, Yig'al Goren:

About 3 months ago, the agriculture minister instructed a Tel Aviv contractor firm to erect six sites in various places in the center of Sinai. On each site an old bus was placed, around which tracts of land were plowed and groundwork for roads laid. The objective was to establish quickly settlement facts in the field. The bill for the work, which had been approved by the coordinator of settlements at the Agriculture Ministry was transferred to the Settlement Division for payment. The Settlement Division, which had not been consulted in the planning of the operation, replied that it would be unable to pay the bill, which amounted to 1.6 million pounds, without examining the work.

Recently a tour was conducted in Sinai to examine the six sites. The surveyors failed to find one of the sites and the search for it has been suspended. Another site could not be reached and hence could be surveyed only from a distance. A third site could not be reached because of darkness. At the end of the tour the settlement division approved payment of 650,000 pounds only, about 1 million pounds less than had been approved by the assistant agriculture minister. The Settlement Division declined to pay the additional 1 million pounds because, in its view, the demands of the contractor's firm do not conform with customary procedures and they cannot be substantiated by a professional examination.

In addition to that, the Settlement Division was requested to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds for items described as idleness, transport differentials, compensations to the contractor, and so forth. For this reason the entire subject was transferred to the comptroller of the Zionist organization, and it is he who will determine whether the entire sum should be paid to the private company.

The director general of the comptroller's office confirmed to me today that his office has been requested to examine the issue, and it will do so soon. Until then the controversial 1 million pounds will not be paid for the work in the center of Sinai.

MINISTERS EXPRESS OPPOSING VIEWS ON SETTLEMENTS

TA0218591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Our correspondent Shemu'el Tal has this report on Minister Me'ir 'Amit's tour of the Yamit district today: [begin recording]

I am a member of the cabinet, said 'Amit, but I am not one to sweep problems under the carpet. We erred by talking big and doing little.

['Amit] We have made a few mistakes by having had much ado about nothing. Instead of doing things quietly or waiting for an opportune moment, there was a lot of commotion. For this reason our hands were tied. All in all, nothing has been achieved. What has actually been achieved is the fact that today there is a freeze [in settlements] and a few other things. All these things you are talking about are a result of barren activities, of big proclamations and of little deeds.

[Tal] The Sinai approaches settlements do not constitute a stumbling block on the road to peace, 'Amit said. The chief problems are the problem of the Palestinians and questions that have to do with the future of Judaea and Samaria. The territorial problem in the Sinai approaches lends itself to a relatively simple solution, he added.

These statements are ambiguous, I was told by settlers who met with Minister 'Amit today. They heard more explicit statements from Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak, who also visited the Yamit District today. No cabinet in Israel will sign a peace treaty that would necessitate a removal of settlements, Shostak told the settlers. There will be negotiations as well as crises. You, however, will never be removed from here.

[Shostak] I, thank God, am not one of those diplomats whose every word is apt to receive world-wide publicity. They perhaps have to be more cautious and have to formulate formulas for you. I am telling you simply: not only that we shall not move from here--you will not move from here.

[Tal] After the visit the settlers told me: This is the first time that we have heard explicit statements from a cabinet member about our future here. This is the first time we have been told that in the district there will always be Israeli settlements with Israeli flags flying over them--according to Shostak--and that these flags will never be lowered. [end recording]

COMMANDER REPLACED OVER BAYT JALA INCIDENT

TA0220025Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 May 78 TA

[Excerpt] The commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen David Hago'el, was today relieved of his command. In his place was appointed Col Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who will be promoted to brigadier general. This has been learned by our correspondent Rafiq Halabi.

Answering a question by our correspondent, Defense Ministry Spokesman Dani Weinreich said this evening that in the wake of the planting of gas grenades in the classrooms of the (Iskandar Nuri) school in Bayt Jala, on 21 March, 1978, the defense minister ordered an investigation. After the minister saw the findings of the investigating officer, the minister decided, with the chief of staff's agreement, to relieve the commander of Judaea and Samaria of his command. The chief of staff, Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan also decided to bring to trial the governor of Bethlehem, Col Natan Rom, and his deputy, Capt Nissim Kohen. The two officers were responsible for deviations from standing orders. This has been communicated by the Defense Ministry spokesman this evening.

STUDENTS TOLD OF SHAH'S VIEWS OF WORLD SCENE

LD021157Y Teheran PARS in English 1020 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency) 1 May--Addressing students at the Air Force Command and Staff College on Sunday, the prime minister and secretary general of Rastakhiz Party, Jamshid Amuzegar, made an assessment of socio-political models in relation to national and international security. He stressed that the school of thought of the shahanshah of Iran is intended for the education of all people and in every country, as the shahanhah's ideas and the shah-people revolution saves the contemporary man from wandering among straying ideologies.

Amuzegar quoted the shahanshah aryamehr as saying that today the daily life of every individual in any geographical region and under any social or economic condition has become interrelated to that of other individuals in the world community. No change or incident on a national scale can happen anywhere without affecting the lives of other nations or societies to a greater or lesser extent.

Referring to national security and its relations to international security, the Iranian prime minister said that when considering [word indistinct] issues in today's world, attention is rarely paid to the relations between political and social education within a country and world events. As an example Amuzegar cited the peaceful policy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the world as humane and pointed out that the roots of this policy should be sought in the political and social values within that country.

Having mentioned some of the problems of that country during World War II, the secretary general of the Rastakhiz Party concluded that every true individual is faced with the question of whether political ideologies and social systems in various countries today are in the service of peace or bring about war. If peace and coexistence are not inherent in these ideologies, the whole foundation is shaky and world diplomacy, no matter how strong it may be, may only change timing of wars and battles, or the manner in which they are fought. It will be unable to establish world peace.

Before expecting miracles from world diplomacy we should attend to national economic, political and social systems and the type of national education within these systems.

RASTAKHIZ PARTY OFFICIALS ADDRESSED ON PARTY'S ROLE

LD021154Y Teheran PARS in English 1020 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency) 1 May--The prime minister and secretary general of the Rastakhiz Party, Jamshid Amuzegar, addressed leading party officials at the party's Teheran headquarters today. On the history of the party, which was established by order of his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr in 1975, Amuzegar said that the historic ties between the shah and the people and the elevated thoughts of Iran's great leader had brought great victories to the country in a short period of time on both the national and international levels and assures us that, on the basis of the faith and ability of the Iranian people, we can proudly pave the way to the great civilization. The shahanshah has described the Rastakhiz Party as a great political and national institution with an all-embracing organisation (?with) the social and philosophical principles of the revolution as its basis, recalled Amuzegar, who went on to say that the (?party) ensured the future of the nation.

Again quoting his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr, the prime minster said that the party was not only all-embracing in political terms but was also a philosophical and intellectual focus for every Iranian. It is like a house in which all the members of a vast family come together to discuss common problems and exchange views. Amuzegar went on to say that one of the party's most important functions was to maintain constant contact between the nation and the government.

Referring to the importance of press freedom in reflecting the views of the public, the secretary general noted that everyting published in the newspapers does not necessarily reflect the views of the entire nation. Speaking about the main reasons for the formation of the party, Amuzegar said that one of the most important of these was the need to pass on the views and proposals of the general public from the basic local party cells and through the higher echelons of the party organisation to the government.

With respect to the relations of the people to the government, the prime minister said that the highest form of this relation took place through the Imperial Commission which was created on the orders of the shahanshah aryamehr.

Returning to the role of the party, Amuzegar said that the party's function was not restricted to dealing with the complaints of the public. The party should follow up these complaints of the public. The party should follow up these complaints through the judicial and executive bodies of the country.

The prime minister went on to attack those who looked upon the great achievements of the country through over-pessimistic eyes. We should not simply criticize the negative aspects of the Iran of today; we should set our eyes, rather, upon the many positive things that have been achieved. The Iranian people may remember the years when the country was offered not solid development projects but empty demagogy, said Amuzegar, whereas, in the few years since the revolution, thousands of projects had been implemented which had brought about vast changes in every aspect of national life, especially in the economic and social fields.

On the subject of the great civilisation envisaged by his imperial majesty, the prime minister said that unlike many contemporary societies, Iran enjoyed equitable welfare, although only a few years ago she had been denied almost every basic (?amenity), and prosperity was confined to a tiny minority, the so-called "thousand families."

Amuzegar said that during the transitionary period that preceeded the achievement of the great civilisation, the Iranian nation was faced with difficulties, shortages and dislocations, but that we should not let such problems cause [word indistinct] much anxiety.

However, said the prime minister, there existed a small minority who were unhappy about the country's progress and did not want to see a prosperous Iran. Such people are the very ones who are undisturbed by the murder of policemen whose duty is to protect law and order. Such violence grows out of the minds and actions of such people who are not true Iranians, claimed Amuzegar. They have either been misled or are ignorant of the true interests of their country.

AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL NATIONALIZES FORMER LEADERS' PROPERTY

LD021828Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 May 78

[Text] The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan at 1000 hours on 2 May 1978 approved the following decree:

The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan held a session under the chairmanship of Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister while [words indistinct] and passed its historic decision as follows:

Since all the movable properties and real estate of the members of the family of the house of Mohammad Nadir Shah, Sardar Mohammad Daud, Sardar Mohammad Na'im, Sardar Shah Wali, Sardar Shah Mahmud, Sar ar Mohammad Hashim [words indistinct] have been obtained by means of plundering the fruits of the hard labor of the country's toilers, henceforth, all these properties will belong to the people of Afghanistan and are hereby declared to be the property of the nation and nationalized.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WELCOMED BY MINISTRY EMPLOYEES

LD021910Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] The members of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan took up their posts today and were enthusiastically welcomed by the officials and employees of their respective ministries. At their meetings with the officials and employees, the government members congratulated them on the victory of the revolutionary uprising of 27 April and expressed the hope that the officials and employees of the democratic republican state will utilize this favorable opportunity afforded them by the revolution and will exert their efforts to serve and strengthen the foundations of the revolution [words indistinct] and fulfill their duties in an atmosphere of sincere patriotism.

Reciprocally, all the officials and employees of the ministries expressed their readiness to serve the high aims of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

CSSR, MONGOLIA RECOGNIZE NEW GOVERNMENT

Recognition by Czechoslovakia

LD021800Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Text] The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic officially recognized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. His excellency the ambassador of Czechoslovakia met with Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan at [word indistinct] at his office and presented him with a memorandum on the official recognition of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The memorandum mentions the (?friendly) relations between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and [words indistinct] their joint efforts for the preservation of peace and security in the world.

Recognition by Mongolia

LD021830Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Text] The Mongolian People's Republic has recognized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Mr Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, chairman of the Presidium of the Mongolian People's Great Hural, in a telegram [words indistinct] addressed to Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, [words indistinct].

KABUL REPORTS PROVINCES WELCOME NEW GOVERNMENT

Herat Province

LD022004Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Summary] The people and notables of Herat and the students of Madreseh-e Fakhrol Madares [an Islamic religious school located in Herat city] as well as judges and officials of Herat Province today went to the Herat Governorate headquarters and asked the governor and military commander of Herat [name indistinct] to convey their heartfelt congratulations to Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki on the occasion of his election as the president of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the success of the glorious revolution of 27 April.

Paktia Province

LD022010Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 May 78 LD

[Summary] A large group of the people of Paktia Province today went to the governor and military commander of Paktia Province to extend congratulations on the success of the revolution and to ask the governor to convey their best wishes to the president and members of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan. A meeting was held at the Paktia Governorate headquarters on this occasion where the governor explained the auspicious aims of the revolution and denounced the enemies of Afghanistan. The meeting was opened by recitation of a few verses of the Holy Koran.

Paktia: Daud Regime Denounced

LD012008Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 1 May 78 LD

[Summary] A big meeting has been held in Seid Karam District of Paktia Province denouncing the deposed regime of Mohammad Daud and expressing enthusiastic support for the success of the revolution. The people's representatives then went to the office of Shulam Nabi, governor and military commander of Paktia, and requested him to convey their congratulations to the chairman and members of the Revolutionary Council.

BANGLADESH

STUDENTS PROTEST AGAINST BURMESE 'ATROCITIES'

BK021716Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 78 BK

[Text] A group of students today staged a demonstration in front of the Burmese Embassy in Dacca to protest against the atrocities on the Moslem population in that country and their eviction from home and hearth. The demonstrators changed various slogans and handed over a memorandum to the embassy official urging the Burmese Government to stop the eviction of a Burmese ethnic minority and (?their pushing) into Bangladesh territory.

NOMINATION PAPERS FILED FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

BK0212257Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 May 78 BK

[Text] Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman filed nomination papers today for the forthcoming presidential election scheduled to be held on 3 June. Nomination papers were filed on behalf of him by prominent leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Front.

Retired Gen M.A.G. Osmani, president of the Jatiya Janata Party, also filed nomination papers today.

The other candidates who filed their nomination for the presidential election are: Syred Serajul Huda, Hakim Maulana Kabiruddin Ahmed, Principal Abdul Hamid, Azizul Islam, Sheikh Mohammad Abu Bakar Siddique, Abdul Samad, Abdul Bashar, Golam Moshid and Walim Islam Chowdhury.

In all 11 candidates filed their nomination papers up to the closing time. A total of 29 nomination papers were submitted on their behalf. Of them, 7 nomination papers were filed on behalf of Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman and 4 on behalf of retired Gen M.A.G. Osmani.

JATIYA JANATA PARTY OPPOSES PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM

BK0111052Y Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 21 Apr 78 p 1 BK

[From our own correspondent]

[Text] The Jatiya Janata Party has vehemently criticized the holding of an election for the presidency.

In a joint statement Ferdaus Ahmed Qureshi, joint convener; Syed Mazharul Haq Baquee, convener of the Organizing Committee; Advocate A.K. Mujibur Rahman, convener of publicity and public relations; Advocate Khan Mohammad Anwarul Wadud, Yasuf Ali, Advocate Serajul Alam, Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Advocate Syed Sakhwat Hussain expressed their outright opposition to the holding of an election for the presidency.

In a statement they said that in the past the people of the country had never accepted the presidential system and had favored only the parliamentary form of government. The selection of June, the month of all natural calamities, as the time for holding the election also clearly manifests a lack of good intentions, they added.

They said that an election is a process which determines the destiny of a nation, and holding it in accordance with the wishes and convenience of a particular individual or group is reprehensible and unjust.

They called upon all democratic forces in the country to rise above their petty interests and forge a unity aimed at a transformation to democracy.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE ISSUES SEVEN CONDITIONS

OW0221562Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1930 GMT 2 May 78 OW

[Text] Dacca, May 2 (AFP)--Opposition presidential candidate retired Gen Ataul Ghani Osmani, who is backed by a five-party political front, today put forward seven conditions to the government of President Ziaur Rahman.

He said if the conditions were not fulfilled by May 7, the front would be considering to withdraw its candidate and refrain from participating in the election.

General Osmani, who is the lone potential candidate to fight General Ziaur in the election, told a press conference that the opposition united front were confronted with a situation "in which an attempt is being made through a show of election which cannot in circumstances be either free or fair, and a presidential system is sought to be imposed on people against their wishes." Conditions put forward by the front included resignation of President Ziaur as chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, withdrawal of martial law and extension of the date of the election by at least 90 days.

TITO AGREES TO POSTPONE ZIA'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

BK0210038Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 2 May 78 BK

[Text] It was officially announced in Dacca today that President Zia and President Tito have by mutual consultations agreed to postpone for some time the visit of the Bangladesh president to Yugoslavia. The 3-day visit was due to take place on Thursday [4 May].

INDIA

GANDHI REVIEWS INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS; REJECTS 'COMEBACK'

LD0211319Y Brussels LE SOIR in French 26 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Serge de Waersegger 22 April Delhi dispatch including interview with Indira Gandhi: "Mrs Indira Gandhi Tells LE SOIR That She Does Not Want to Return to Power, Although She Has Not Given Up Politics"]

[Excerpt] Mrs Indira Gandhi seemed collected and was frowning. What does she think of her strong comeback on the political scene, just a year after being chased out of politics? Her dark eyes were shining, and she smiled as she replied quickly: "Oh, but I am not trying to make a comeback on the political scene. I am only involved in politics again because the people are forcing me into it. I do not want to get back into the government. After all the years I have spent in the government I have had quite enough." Then, a moment later she added, as if she had just discovered the fact: "It is true that I am the sort of person who cannot stay removed from the political situation. I react to everything that happens, and I cannot remain indifferent to the problems which arise. And I do not necessarily know where it will lead me."

"I Had No Choice"

Mrs Gandhi professes great concern for the lower classes, but she nevertheless suspended democratic freedom for 18 months when she was in government.

"I had no choice," she replied. "India was going through an acute crisis, with food and energy shortages and financial problems. At that time the parties which now form the Janata government majority did everything they could to prevent these problems from being solved. That is what I call political violence, and it must not be confused with the violence which unfortunately is spreading in India today and which has its roots in the population. This political obstacle and, above all, the human misery caused by the crisis forced me to declare a state of emergency."

Now that there is an increasing number of riots in India, does Mrs Gandhi think a state of emergency could be declared again?

She waved away this suggestion:

"The same thing never happens twice in politics. The state of emergency was declared because of a very special situation, and this situation has now changed. The present government is powerless. Its inability to act is making the people powerless, and it is incapable of stemming this trend. This was apparent in Gujarat." (LE SOIR editor's note: During the agricultural workers' riots, the police opened fire on demonstrators and many people were killed.)

Mrs Gandhi sounded weary: "My government carried out an agricultural reform. We distributed land to farmers. This land was taken away from them just when it was beginning to show profit. They were even hoping to export these products in a really competitive way. Then all the people whose land had been taken and who were robbed and left penniless turned to us. They forced me to take the role I now have. After the election defeat last year we should have turned to the people immediately. However, the officials of my party asked me to lie low, and I realized that my party was regressing."

Concentrating on The Poorest People

Mrs Gandhi thinks that, since her party (which has split into two groups) no longer forms a large Parliamentary bloc, it should now concentrate on the poorest people and express their hopes and rights. That is the only way of finding its former vocation again. And what about defeating the Janata?

"It is difficult to foresee how long the present government based on the Janata Party will last; being a confederation of parties, it is very divided, but nobody can say how long it will stay on the political scene."

And yet the economic situation in India is not bad, and the present government has just started to liberalize trade. "What is the reason for this liberalization? It does not make sense to import what you can manufacture yourself. Why change a sound economic policy by opening our doors to things we do not need? Moreover, this shows how powerless the government is: The results of the economic policy are dwindling."

INDIAN ATTITUDE TO NEW AFGAN GOVERNMENT NOTED

BK0217477Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 2 May 78 BK

[Excerpts] India has conveyed to Afghanistan that its relations with that country have always been based on deep understanding and traditional friendship regardless of who is at the helm of affairs in New Delhi or Kabul.

The Indian ambassador in Kabul, who met the president of the Revolutionary Council, Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, referred to the close ties between the two countries and their understanding of international and regional issues.

Britain is considering a request for recognition from the new Afgan Government. According to a Foreign Office spokesman in London, the British Embassy in Kabul has received a note asking for recognition.

PAKISTAN

ELECTION COMMISSION TO PREPARE NEW ELECTORAL ROLLS

BK011616Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 May 78 BK

[Text] The Election Commission today issued a notice withdrawing its earlier announcement of 7 August 1977 under which the election of representatives to the national and state assemblies was to be held in October 1977. Thus, the legal hurdle for verification and amendment of the present electoral rolls has been removed and the way cleared for the preparation of new ones.

GENERAL SHARIF LEAVES ON 8-DAY VISIT TO EGYPT

BK021020Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 2 May 78 BK

[Text] The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, Gen Mohammad Sharif, left Karachi this morning for Cairo on an 8-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of the chief of staff of the Egyptian armed forces. He will visit military establishments during his stay.

SRI LANKA

ALGERIAN ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE TO JAYEWARDENE

OW022046Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1805 GMT 2 May 78 OW

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)--A special message from President Houari Boumediene of Algeria was handed over here today to Sri Lanka's President J.R. Jayewardene.

The contents of the message were not disclosed, but informed sources said it conveyed greetings of President Boumediene to Mr Jayawardene and explained the present situation in northwest Africa.

Mr Kellou told AFP he informed Mr Jayewardene about the situation in Western Sahara, and he was "satisfied" with his meeting with the Sri Lankan leader. He said Algeria supports the right of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara where the POLISARIO Front is carrying on a fight for national liberation.

Mr Kellou said his meeting with Mr Jayewardene took place in a "friendly" atmosphere, and he conveyed to the Sri Lankan leader President Boumediene's greetings on his recent appointment as the president of the Republic of Sri Lanka.

BRIEFS

PRO-SOVIET WEEKLY BANNED--Katmandu, April 27 (AFP)--The Nepalese Government has banned a Soviet mouthpiece, THE WEEKLY SHAMIKSHA, under Press and Publication Act 2032, it was announced today. Announcing the ban of this highly political weekly, the Communication Ministry gave no reason, but political observers estimated this was its continuing aggressive stand against the government. The weekly also regularly denounced both China and the United States. The paper was previously banned for 2 years, but Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista lifted the ban along with those on another five publications last September under his "press liberalisation" policy. In its April 21 issue, the pro-Soviet weekly printed a cartoon insulting government authorities and the Council of Ministers. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK]

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